Michael Barrymore fights his demons



Seaman at Arsenal until end of century

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Major tried to sink Irish peace

Every leader's

he MPs who cannot keep quiet

waking nightmare

Letters show Dublin initiative was rejected

DAVID MCKITTRICK Ireland Correspondent

John Major repeatedly at-tempted to persuade the Irish government to ahandon the peace initiative which led to the Downing Street declaration of 1993 and the following year's IRA ceasefire.

Prime Minister did not believe the Irish government's argument that the historic declaration would lead to a cessation of IRA violence. It also reveals the IRA and Sinn Fein played a significant role in writing the early drafts of the declaration.

The evidence undermines the conventional view in Britain that the Downing Street decla-ration, and the August 1994 IRA cessation, were the direct result of Mr Major's efforts. On the contrary, the material shows the Prime Minister opposed the thrust of the initiative, and moved only with reluctance. It indicates Mr Major signed

the declaration only after inteast pressure from the then Insti- Taoiseach, Albert John Hume.

The research shows how the IRA and Sinn Fein had direct input into early drafts of the declaration, with Sinn Fein writing several drafts and passing them on at secret meetings with an trish government representative.

The new material is presented in a book, The Fight for Peace, published yesterday, and in a Channel 4 Dispatches programme to he hroadcast

 It includes the text of highly confidential private letters be-

Reynolds during the Anglo-Irish negotiations which led to the emergence of the Downing Street declaration in December 1993. Mr Reynolds sent a draft declaration to Mr Major, writing in a personal note: "It has the hacking, so far as we can ascertain through our intermedi-. Confidential letters show the aries, of those who can produce peace. There are risks, but peace is within our reach if we

play our cards right." Mr Major, however, after consulting the Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, and the intelligence agencies, concluded the initiative stood no chance of producing an IRA cessation of violence. Sir Patrick favoured seeking an agreement with the constitutional parties, to the exclusion of Sinn Fein:

In personal fetters to Mr Reynolds, Mr Major argued There is clearly no hope of securing even taget acceptance by the Unionist mainstream of a joint declaration along the lines of your draft." He added: "After giving it very careful con- ly as 1990.

tween Mr Major and Mr sideration, with all the intelligence at our disposal, we have very reluctantly concluded that it will not run at the present

> Mr Major subsequently changed his mind, after intense pressure and following the eruption of violence in late

> The material shows the path to the Downing Street declaration began two years before it was signed, when Mr Hume wrote a first draft of the document. The book gives the text of 11 drafts circulated within a circle that included Mr Hume, Mr Reynolds, Sinn Fein's pres-ident, Gerry Adams, and the army council of the IRA.

The last of these drafts was passed oo to Mr Major by Mr Reynolds in June 1993. The British and Irish governments later negotiated at least 15 further drafts. The revelations follow the weekend disclosure that the Government's secret contacts with the IRA and Sing Fein were set in motion as ear-

• 1990: Peter Brooke, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, sanctions secret contacts with Sinn Feln and IRA. • 1991: John Hume writes first draft of what will become the Downing Street declaration.

• June 1993: The Taoiseach, Albert Reynolds, sends 11th draft of declaration to Major.

• Oct / Nov 1993: Major rejects draft. Ten die in IRA bombing on Shankill Road; 8 die in loyalist gan attack on pub in Grevsteel: contacts between London and IRA end.

• Dec 1993: Major accepts declaration. • Aug 1994: IRA announces cessation of violence. • Spring 1995: Government contacts with IRA resume.

• Feb 1996: IRA cessation ends; Docklands bomb

Chernobyl blaze rekindles memories of disaster



man walls as fire engulfs her former home in the exclusion zone around the Chernobyl plant, scene of the world's worst nuclear accident almost exactly 10 years ago. The fire destroyed five deserted villages but was put out before radioactivity could spread

PM threatens go-slow on Europe

COLIN BROWN Chief Political Correspondent

John Major today will opeo up a new front in the battle over the Europe by warning other EU states that he will go slow on new agreements unless they adhere to Britain's opt-out from

the social chapter. It follows the inconclusive talks yesterday between the Agriculture Minister Douglas Hogg and the European Com-missioner, Franz Fischler, over easing the European beef ban.

Mr Major's speech in London today to the Institute of Directors may be seen as an attempt to restore some of the Government's credibility among its Euro-sceptic MPs after being forced to retreat in its war of words over the beef ban.

The Prime Minister will attack Britain's European partners for using health and safety legislation, over which Britain has no veto, to challenge Britain's the social chapter optout negotiated at Maastricht.

If old agreements are to be broken, I cannot see how we can be expected to make new ones," Mr Major will say. It is intended as a clear warning that Britain will not agree to progress in the Inter-Governmental Conference, unless the Commission stops bending the rules on issues such as a statutory 48-hour working week.

His criticism will target a sore point among many Tory MPs, and it will enable Mr Major to counter-attack Labour for being prepared to sign up to the social chapter.

Tony Blair exploited Tory humiliation over the ministerial climb-down on heef yesterday by accusing Mr Major at Prime Minister's Question Time of trying to appeare the Tory Euro-sceptics by making threats of action which could not be carried out. Mr Blair said there was "confusion and incompetence" at the heart of the Government's policy on Eu-

The Euro-sceptics made a show of strength in the Commons when 66 Tory MPs voted

for an end to the power of the European Court of Justice over British courts. The vote on a backbench bill was intended to show the Government there is growing support among Tory backbenchers for a commitment to renegotiate the Treaty of Rome.

Ian Duncan-Smith, who in-troduced the hill, said at least 30 ministerial aides supported the move, but were stopped from voting for it by pressure from the Government whips. Hope of end to ban, page 2

IN BRIEF

Yeltsin's arch-enemy reported killed

Russia was last night anxious-ly awaiting further details about a report that the Chechen rebel leader, Dzhokhar Dudayev (below), President Buris Yeltsin's arch-enemy, had been killed. The former Soviet air force general was said to have died



after being caught in an air strike while he was in a field outside a Chechen village, using his satellite telephone to discuss possible peace talks. Page

UN accuses Israel

over rocket attacks The UN commander in southern Lebanon accused his Israeli counterpart of trying to justify further Qana-style tragedies, where 120 Lebanese refugees died last Thursday, by claiming that Hizbollah is still using UN bases for cover to fire Katyusha

rockets into Galilee. Page 10 **Today's weather** Bright and cool, with sun and showers. Section Two, page 29



CS gas squirted at handcuffed man

it was a contributing factor.

they found his wife standing in

the road. She had jumped from

their first floor flat. Mr Sey was

allegedly holding his six month

two men were separated.

Disruptive boy allowed back into school

the school - but with more spe- al Association of Schoolmasters/ man, said: "Following a very

Union of Women Teachers at Glaisdale School.

was unteachable, a threat to

them and to other pupils. But the appeals panel decision has

half-hour meeting with the boy's parents and the head-

teacher, local authority repre-

sentatives said that they had

In an agreed joint statement

reached an agreement.

They claimed that the boy

Yesterday, after a two-and-a-

olent people.

JASON BENNETTO, Crime Correspondent.

A man who died in police custody after CS spray was squirted into his face had his arms handcoffed behind his back at the time, the Independent has learned.

It is also understood that at least five officers were attempting to restrain forahima Sey, 29, at a police station in east Londoo in March, when he was sprayed with the incapacitant. News that CS was used while

a man was handcuffed brought calls for trials of the spray, which is being tested by 16 police forces in England and Wales, to be halted immediately. Ghanaian-born Mr Sey, who

suffered from mental problems, was arrested after a fracas involving his wife and two children. Initial findings of the police inquiry into the death at liftord police station, in east London, are understood to have found

Education Correspondent

The headteather, David Hig-gins, will today tirge teaching staff

that Mr Sey was handcuffed at the time he was sprayed, and was struggling, but contrary to some reports he was not head butting officers. Sources suggest that shortly before the struggle he attempted to kiss a woman police officer.

A friend of Mr Sey, Paebou Ndimbalan, who had travelled with him to the station in a police van, has claimed that up to 12 officers were involved in his arrest and restraining him at the police station.

Tony Banks, Labour MP for Newham North West, said yes-terday: "If he was restrained already with handcuffs to use CS spray is dangerous and reckless it must be outside the permitted rules and guidelines.

"The CS sprays should be withdrawn immediately from service until this matter is resolved."

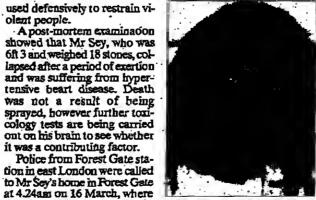
cialised support. Teachers' rep-

resentatives are still considering

against his expulsion to a local authority panel, who ordered

that he should be returned to .

old baby and shouting through an open window. Mr Ndimbalan eventually persuaded Mr Sey to get into the back of a police van with him. When they arrived at the CS spray, which causes breathing difficulties, streaming eyes and nose, is designed to be police yard of liford station the



Ibrahime Sey: 'Sprayed while he was handouffed'

A scuffle took place in which Mr Sey was handcuffed. Shortly afterwards he was sprayed in the face, during which several people suffered from the effects of the incapacitant and were replaced by other officers.

Mr Sey was placed in a cell and subsequently complained

constructive meeting between Mr and Mrs Wilding, Mr Hig-gins, the headteacher, and of-

ficers of the education

committee, agreement has been reached for Richard's future ed-

ucation to take place partly at

Glaisdale School, which will

eventually lead to reintegration into classes at Glaisdale."

An education authority

spokesman said that the special

arrangements would oot in-

volve the boy being taught by

any of its existing teachers, or

of feeling unwell. He was taken to hospital where he later

An inquiry is being led by Frank Wilkinson, Assistant Chief Constable of Hertfordshire police, and the case is being overseen by the inde-pendent Police Complaints Authority.
The Newham Monitoring

Project, a campaign group, is calling for a halt to the CS trial and for the officers involved to be suspended while an independent inquiry is set up. Pro-ject spokesman Piara Powar said: "When CS spray first came out it was said it was for use on dangerous criminals, not for people handcuffed in-

side a police station." Lee Jasper, for the National Black Caucus, added: "How can it possibly be justified to use CS spray on a suspect who is handcuffed and surrounded by officers in the confines of a po-

The geoeral secretary of the NASUWI, Nigel de Gruchy, said that was bound to give his

memhers "cause for concern".

But he was unwilling to be

drawn on the prospects for

strike action going ahead before

talking in detail to both the lo-

cal authority and his own local

tail. At the moment it's not very

promising. But we obviously

have to talk to the local authority," Mr de Gruchy said.

We have to study this in de-

Leading article, page 16 School dispute, page 5



Today, a Goldsmiths jeweller is one of the best places to buy a Rolex.



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at the school to accept an agree—
That prompted a strike vote
ment that the boy should stay at by 20 members of the Nation-Wilding's solicitor, Hilary Freein a mainstream class.

ARTS 6-9 CHESS 27 CROSSWORD 30 FINANCE & LAW 17-24 LISTINGS 27-29 LIVING 4,5 MONEY 13-16 RADIO 31

BUSINESS 18-21 COMPRESS 18-7 TOUSSWORD 26 GAZETTE 14
LEADING ARTICLES 16 TOUS 16 TOUS ANALYSIS 15
CRITUARIES 14 SEA 18-22 COMPRESS 14-28 UNIT TRUSTS 23

A compromise deal was drawn any yesterday it allow a dishiptive schoolboy back into the Nottingham school from which he was expelled. Teachers at Glaisdale School, Nottingham, have voted to stille indentifies the property of Richard Wilding, 13, is allowed back into mainstream.

the school

That prompted a strike vote between the parties Mr and Mrs

legal status.

TELEVISION 32 THEATRE 8.9 WEATHER 29

If this romantic picture has a historical, slightly mediaeval. resonance, then so too does the reality of political debate in the House. Twice a week mortal combat takes place between the

protruding from his helm, clad all in silven armour with the favours of thousands of ladies ponent is that grizzled veteran. The Knight of The Rather Doleful Countenance, his hreastplate covered in the dents of old conflicts, his back-plate even more hacked about from the blows of colleagues.

The main weapon of both is contempt, which - like the huge longswords of yore - tends to be unwieldy and inaccurate. So on Tuesdays and Thursdays they tot-



AARONOVITCH

ter under the weight of their hlades, circling slowly, hoping to land a hlow in the right place. Succeed and they will lop off a limh, cleave a crest or hew a head. Cries of triumph will go up and morale will rise. But usually both retire exhausted at the

end of the contest, with no clear advantage to either side.

Yesterday, however, Smilealot laid out the Grey Knight. Was it possible, he had asked, for the Prime Minister to clarify exactly what dire and dread action as hinted at by the Foreign Secretary - would be taken by his government should the Europeans not rescind their ban on the Beef of Britain? To counter this line of attack Mr Major held aloft his shield. And on it was written "we shall look at other options". That was a leg gone.

Blair's turn. What exactly were these options? Mr Major jumped to his remaining leg and responded that he (Mr Ma-

jor) had clearly told him (Mr virility Blair) already, and was sorry that he hadn't understood. Which was clearly nonsense. So that was an arm off.

Blair delivered the coup de grace, amid a flurry of his favourite epithets ("divided, weak, mcompetent" etc). From the pool of political blood in which he was now lying Mr Major croaked something about Labour's tax plans and expired. Blair smiled with relief, but aware that tomorrow (like in the Highlander films) he will have to do it all over again. He knows the whole business is neither pretty nor effective, yet continues to be

regarded as a test of courage and

BSE crisis: Hogg talks with Fischler raise hopes of relaxation of European ban

heard immediately afterwards, when the aforementioned Iain Duncan-Smith introduced a bill designed to counter the powers of the European Court of Jus-tice over Britain. It was a 10minute bill, so called because 10

minutes is allotted to its discus-

sion. Just enough time for one

speech in favour and one

After the thudding and bashing of PMOs, this was Greek wrestling. Two oiled combatants, their speeches simuous, clever and, above all, well-argued, twisted

was being frustrated by a remote Far better argument was to be bench of foreign judges. Norman Lamont and John Redwood nod-

ded vigorously.

Sounding early like James
Naughtie of the Today programme, Liberal Democrat Charles Kennedy slid into the ring. Just as Mr Duncan-Smith failed to mention any of the benefits of the European Court, Mr Kennedy sought no faults. The Court prevented abuses by other countries. Full stop.

Ten minutes being up, Mr Kennedy won the vote (just) and Mr Duncan-Smith the argument (just). And all in twothirds of the time it takes for Smith's watchmaking Parliament Prime Minister's questions.

IN BRIEF

Missing sailor is presumed dead

viec forc

A lone sailor whose fire damaged yacht was found aban-doned and drifting at sea was presumed dead yesterday. Thomas Jardine, 46, from Ayleshury, Buckinghamshire, lives on the 35ft Rumbumble after separating from his wife.

He left Buckler's Hard on the Solent last Caturday for a week's cruise along the south coast. The yacht was found drifting 10 miles south-west of the Lizard, Cornwall, on Monday. There was no one on board and evidence of a cabin fire.

Here for the beer

Britain's first bottled heer museum has opened in Ipswich, Suffolk, with more than 1,800 bottles of commemorative ale. The oldest was brewed in 1902 and the most valuable was made by Jennings of Cockermouth for the coronation in 1953. The bottle of Coronation Ale, now worth up to £100, would have cost around a halfpenny when it was brewed,

Fire peace deal

Firefighters due to vote on industrial action in a long running dispute over jobs and holidays will instead be balloted on a peace deal after a breakthrough at conciliation talks, Members of the Fire Brigades Union on Merseyside have staged 22 walkouts in nine months over 20 job losses and a three-day cut in holidays.

Actress's damages

The actress Stefanie Powers accepted a public apology and libel damages of more than £60,000 over allegations that she sexually harassed and assaulted a male assistant. Ms Powers, 52, who starred in the television series Han To Hun in the 1980s. sued the Sun newspaper after it reported allegations that she was an alcoholic and had caused the assistant to be threatened.

MP goes home

The leading Northern Ireland MP Seamus Mallon was discharged from hospital five days after being taken ill during a radio programme. The deputy leader of the SDLP was admilted to St Thomas's Hospital in Westminster, central London, on Thursday, Mr Mallon, 59, became ill while taking part in a radio programme by tele-

phone from his London home.

£100m delivery The Post Office announced that is to spend £100m in the next year on new vehicles. Parcelforce managing director Kevin Williams said £97m will be spent on commercial vehicles and £12m on cars, mainly for sales staff, in the next financial year. The Post Office has one of Britain's biggest vehicle fleets, with around 30,000 cars and vans.

Accent on jobs The supermarket chain Tesco is to create 150 jobs at a national telephone inquiry centre in Dundee. Fifty such call centres have opened in Scotland, employing more than 5,000 people, often by firms whose customers prefer Scottish accents to English regional ones. They in-clude IBM's European help centre in Greenock and BT tele-

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marketing in Motherwell. Last supper

The monogrammed pewter tankard Charles Dickens is said to have heen drinking from when he died at his dinner table on 9 Juoe, 1870, sold for £4,830 at a London auction.

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£170m NHS payout to GPs 'was illegal'

CHRIS BLACKHURST Westminster Correspondent

More than £170m of taxpayers' money has been paid out ille-gally by the Government to smooth the path of its health service reforms, according to a powerful official watchdog. Detailed records of the scheme

are said to have been destroyed, The Commons Public Accounts Committee has been asked to look into payments by the NHS to GPs to enable them to manage their own hudgets. A letter from the National Audit Office, highly critical of the payments, has been passed to Robert Sheldon

MP, the committee chairman. In the letter, the watchdog described the payments as "unyears without explicit Parlia-mentary approval. Advice from solicitors at the Departscheme was unlawful had been ignored by officials.

Files were destroyed and as a result, says the NAO, "our analysis of what went wrong and why, must be speculative to

In 1990, the Government's Community Care Act made no mention of payments to GPs and practice managers to cover the cost of hiring accountants and book-keepers to help them move to administering their own finances. Legislation authorising the cash was oot passed or approved by

Nevertheless, acting on orders from the health department, Family Health Service Authorities went ahead and handed out the money. In October 1992, says the NAO, "solicitors first drew attention to the lack of statutory authority". In another minute, on 7 June 1994, the NAO says the de-

partment's lawyers pointed out that there was no lawful basis for FHSAs to make the

payments to GPs.
The legislation was finally introduced last year, hut not before payments totalling £159.7m in England, £8.95m in Wales and £9,17m in Scotland, had been made.

The NAO held an internal inquiry after the matter was raised in October 1995 by the Lahour MP, Rhodri Morgan.

One of the reasons for the payments being pushed through without MPs being given the opportunity to discuss them, was the desire of civil servants not to delay the Government's health reforms, the NAO found. "GP fundholding was one of the areas in which innovation satisfactory" and said public and change was most evident money was "paid out for five and there was an active programme in the department to keep up the momentum, which may have led to work ment of Health warning that the on the statutory approval of management allowance being given less priority than it

When the NAO came to had changed jobs and that files had been destroyed under the "five-year rule" covering the keeping of departmental

Mr Morgan said it was clear that "if scandals go on for more than five years they will go undetected. He said it was outrageous that it was impossible to discover who had destroyed the files and the MP also questioned the motives for getting

It was obvious, said Mr Morgan, that staff were required to be "gung-ho ahout fund-holding - nobody dared raise the issue with ministers because they were afraid of bringing bad news."

He had written to Mr Sheldon asking for a PAC inquiry.



Removal of beef boycott 'closer'

KATHERINE BUTLER

Douglas Hogg, the Minister of Agriculture, yesterday held out the hope that Europe's ban on British heef would be relaxed next week.

Mr Hogg met the Franz Fis-chler, the European farm commissioner, for two-and-a-half hours of talks oo a selective slaughter policy and despite the absence of any obvious agreement appeared confident a deal paving the way for a phased removal of the boycott could be closer.

"The Council is likely to move to support a relaxation of the ban against the background

of the steps we have taken," Mr Hogg said after the meeting. He said yesterday's talks had focused on "concepts and principles" rather than numbers to be slaughtered. However, EU sources said Mr Fischler was disappointed that with just five days before the deadline set by EU ministers last month, Britain has still not submitted a comprehensive and politically convincing BSE eradication

strategy to the European Com-"He [Mr Fischler] would like to have seen a bit more" one senior official said. The Commission will have to examine detailed proposals on slaughter and eradication before recom-

mending acceptance by ministers who are due to meet in Luxemhourg next Monday, but plans for the slaughter of 42 000 cattle were described as "minimalist" by some officials. Mr Fischler remained cau-

tious after the meeting saying his concern was less the numbers of animals to be destroyed than a clear strategy for urgently reducing the incidence of BSE in British herds. "As to a specific proposal in writing, we are still waiting for that he said.

He also stressed that the onus was on Britain to convince its EU partners that controls and curbs are being strictly enforced on the ground. A team of EU inspectors is currently in the United Kingdom and will be reporting back on its findings by the end of the week.

Despite the obstacles the tone of yesterday's meeting appears to have been more conciliatory, with a determined effort oo Mr Hogg's part to lower the temperature. According to one source, Mr Hogg reassured Mr Fischler over reports that Britain might be considering trade reprisals.

The prospect of exemptions from the han as a possible first step towards normalisation of trade was raised yesterday and Mr Hogg said he wanted to see grass-fed cattle - thought least susceptible to infection - exempted from compulsory slanghter. "We have explored the possibility of devising a system of exemptions to the 30month rule. There is real merit in that," he added. However, the Government is

unlikely to press to get the han lifted in Scotland and Northern Ireland even though the Commission has already said it could go along with that approach. Animal welfare campaigners esterday pledged to picket abattoirs where thousands of dairy calves, less than 10 days old, will be slaughtered as part of the emergency controls introduced against mad cow disease. The cull is likely to begin tomorrow in 79 approved slaughter houses.

Hague told to hold full inquiry Brown talks tough on tax

ROGER DOBSON

The Secretary of State for Wales, William Hague, was yes-terday pressed to hold a full judicial inquiry into widespread child abuse in North Wales which would investigate a oumber of issues, including allegations of the iovolvement of former and serving policemen.

The inquiry would also look at the idea of a Children's Ombudsman to listen to young people in care who have complaints of abuse to tackle the problem of such children being reluctant to complain because of fears they will not be believed.

Ways of identifying pae-dophiles working in social work training would also be part of the hrief, according to a sixpoint proposal put to Mr Hague by Lahour MPs yesterday.



After yesterday's meeting. Labour's health spokesman on Wales, Rhodri Morgan, said, "The Welsh Secretary gave us an absolute undertaking that there would be no cover-up."

The Welsh Office is also understood to he taking up with other departments the issues surrounding the influence that insurers have on the way child abuse investigations are carried out. There have been complaints that insurers put pressure on councils not to publish be-cause of the potential ammu-

nition it provided for would-be

The delegation also called for the confidential report of an inquiry team into abuse in Clwyd to be made public and told the Secretary of State that there was an overwhelming call for a judicial inquiry from almost everyone involved.
The delegation said that a

public inquiry should consider: Barring residential care workers from working in homes when them are doubts about their activities:

The problem of any paedophiles working in social work training centres who then help like-minded individuals to A children's commissioner or

ombudsman to listen to children's complaints; ■ Better communications between social service departments to make sure that people who leave one job in disgrace, but are not prosecuted, cannot get new jobs in homes; Possible protection of paedophiles from prosecution by a

network of sympathisers in positions of responsibility. Mr Morgan said: "A judicial inquiry could look at whether there was a ring extending into the police which led to the delay in the prosecution or inves-

tigation."
The 300-page report, by Joho Jillings former director of social services in Derbyshire. Professor Jane Tunstill, professor of social work at Keele University, and child care specialist, Gerrilyn Smith. has more than 50 recommendations, but its chief one is that their must be an inJOHN RENTOUL

Political Correspondent Gordon Brown, the shadow

Chancellor, yesterday sought to reclaim his authority over Labour's tax plans with a ringing assertion of his right out to set out detailed rates.

In an attack on accountants and tax advisers for "peddling lies" about Labour's plans, he read the riot act to his Shadow Cabinet colleagues, reminding them not to engage in public speculation about tax.

But he found himself under fiege on another front as his plans to stop child benefit for 16-18 year olds came under fire from the Government and his own MPs.

Leading accountants, including KPMG and Ernst &

tery than on the random advice coming from some of these Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman, said: "If Mr Hamish McRae weigha up

incomes above £40,000 a year

under a Labour government. Mr Brown said: "People would

be better gambling on the lot-

Brown's options, page 15 Brown doesn't like it he has a

simple remedy - publish the tax plans and be damned,"

Douglas Fairhairn, national tax partner of Ernst & Young. responded: "Until Labour publish firm proposals, we have a duty to our clients to take Young, recently advised clients Labour's published statements

to take action to avoid possible higher rates of income tax on Some degree of educated guess-Some degree of educated guessing is inevitable. Mr Brown's speech to a

business audience in London. was also aimed at his own party. Tax advisers' guesswork appeared to be supported by remarks from Clare Short, Labour's transport spokeswoman, and John Prescott, eputy leader, in recent weeks. Mr Brown said: "It is for the shadow chancellor to make our tax decisions ... and that is the

way it will stay." Ms Short and Mr Prescott were backed by Roy Hattersley, former deputy Labour leader, who said their comments on tax were of no political significance. "Both comments were blown up into stories in part because of the instinctive malice of some newspapers," he said.

renewed criticism today for its reliance on repeats and be rebuked for a lack of orginal material.

The criticism, in the annual report by commercial television's regulator, follows a public apology by the channel last night for three examples of had language in TFI Friday, a

Chris Evans which is screened at 6pm. The apology to the In-dependent Television Commission for "clearly unacceptable breaches" was followed by a promise that that show would

to reprimand the channel also accused of a decline in orginal material - for another rise in the number of repeats. The same complaint was made

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C4 guilty of breaches in broadcast code MARIANNE MACDONALD

Media Correspondent

Channel 4 is expected to face

live programme presented by

be pre-recorded in future. The ITC's report for 1995

published today, is understood

Media mogul 'forced models to have sex'

The socialist millionaire businessman Owen Oyston raped two teenage models at his country home after they were told he could help their careers, a court was told yesterday.

Here for the bea

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One of the girls, a 17-year-old virgin at the time of the alleged attack, claimed that Mr Oyston, 62, who has wide media interests and is the chairman of Blackpool Football Club, ig-nored her pleas to stop as he forced her to have sex.

And his second alleged victim, who was just 16, was forced to have oral sex with Mr Oyston in the back of a car before being ordered to join him and another woman in bed.

Both girls had been led to believe by Peter Martin, the head of their Manchester modelling agency, Model Team, that Oyston could help their careers. But they stayed silent about their ordeal for years fearing that oobody would believe them, Mrs Helen Grindrod QC, for the prosecution, told Liverpool Crown Court.

She said that oeither girl had complained to the police until 1995 following publicity in late 1994 about the agency.

"Amongst those interviewed at that time were these two young women who for the first time told the police the story of what had happened.

You may find it easy to understand that when something comes about such as the knowledge that there were other people, it is easier to talk."

Mr Oyston, of Claughton Hall, near Lancaster, denies raping the first woman between Jannary 1988 and December 1989 and to raping and inde-cently assaulting the second between October and Decemher 1991

The first model wiped away tears as she told the jury of eight women and four men how Mr Oyston forced her into sex as she was driven to his isolated, castle-like house by Mr Martin,

a friend of Mr Oyston. She said the millionaire told her he wanted to show her the house but quickly led into the main bedroom. She asked to go to the bathroom and emerged to find Ovstoo sitting on the bed

wearing only his shirt. "He told me to come and sit next to him. I was scared, I was young and frightened."

Mr Oyston then ordered her to remove her underwear. "He laid down next to me and leaned over and flung his hands across my chest. He then climbed over on top of me. He just said shut up and do as you are told. I was crying. She said: "I kept saying I

don't want to do it. He kept saying I can learn you a few things. She eventually struggled free and left the house. "I was dis-gusted with myself," she said. adding that she was too fright-

ened to tell her parents. She said it was only the second time she had met Mr Oyston, who she said had struck her as "quite sleazy" when he was introduced to her by Mr Martin as "someone quite impor-tant" who could help her career only a few weeks earlier.

The model denied that she had a loog affair with Mr Oyston, and said she never had sex with him again. She admitted accepting money from him twice: "I don't know why I took it at the time. I was involved with piles of monied people."

Mr Oyston sat in the dock studiously taking notes as Mrs Grindrod told the jury how the second alleged victim was also tin in the middle of the night. Mr Martin was driving with another girl, Lisa Rowbottom,

When they reached Claughton Hall Mr Oyston took the two girls into a bedroom. "She sat on a chair. Lisa seemed to know more about why she was there, went into a bathroom, undressed, got in bed with Mr Oyston and had sexu-

in the front of his car and Oys-ton and the 16-year-old in the

cramped hack seats. During

the journey Mr Oyston had

forced her to have oral sex.

al intercourse. Oyston then ordered her to get in bed with them. She did what she was told. Oyston had sexual intercourse with her with Lisa still in the bed.

"She lay still and unrespon-

sive making it clear that she was

not consenting." When questioned by police Oyston said it was too cramped for oral sex in the back of the car and also denied the rape "He agreed that he had sex with Lisa on more than one occasion but denied ever having sex in the presence of a third party." The case continues.



Owen Oyston arriving at court yesterday with his wife Vicki

Diet campaign is rejected despite warning on poor

The Government yesterday rejected plans for a multi-million pound healthy-eating carppaign as experts warned that improving the diet of the poor was the only solution to the chronic illness and early death

in this group.

The Low Income Project Team, an off-shoot of the Government's own Nutrition Task Force, said that dietary factors were to hlame for the higher rates of heart disease, strokes, caocer, diabetes, high blood pressure, lung and digestive disorders, and obesity among the less well off.

In a secood report, also published yesterday, the Task Force recommended a campaign to persuade people to eat more bread, pasta, rice, fruit and regetables, and fish, funded at £3-5m a year for up to five years. The Government dismissed this, claiming that it was for other sectors to "grasp the marketing opportunities presented by the quest for healthy eating".

The National Food Alliance, an independent consumer watchdog, immediately ques-tioned the Government's commitment to Health of the Nation targets for improving diet. It also criticised ministers for banning discussion on benefit levels by the experts compiling the report.

The Low Income Project report said; "Many of [the diseases] can be argued to have a dietary component in their causation which is consistent with the differences in food consumption between social classes, such as lower consumption of whole grain cereal products, fruit and vegetables and lower intakes of dietary fibre and anti-oxidant outrients."

It said that some people on low income, often young mothers, went without food regularly. Young householders, the memployed, those on benefit payments or very low incomes, especially those living in local authority accommodation with rent or fuel deductions from henefit payments, have the greatest difficulties and the

worst diets," claimed the LIPT. The report concluded that infants in low income households were less likely to be breastfed and had a higher prevalence of anaemia. Toddlers had higher intakes of saturated fatty acids and sugar and lower intakes of dietary fibre and vitamins. They had slower growth, more were overweight

and suffered tooth decay. Children aged 10 to 15 had lower intakes of most vitamins and minerals and suffered lower levels of activity and booe mass, plus more anaemia.

Pregnant women had lower energy and nutrient intakes and higher instances of anaemia, still births and low hirthweight infants. Older people had lower nutrient intakes, poorer immune systems, and nigher rates of illness and death for most diet-related diseases.

The second report by the Nutritioo Task Force - its last after being set up two years ago detailed 21 recommendations for improving the nation's diet, most of which were accepted apart from plans for the new promotional campaign. Copies of the Nutrition Task

Force Report, Eat Well II, and the Low Income Project Team Report, are available from the Department of Health, PO Box 410, Wetherby, LS23 7LN.

Depressed men turn to the bottle in despair

LIZ HUNT

Thousands of depressed men spair or seek medical help for their plight, and turn instead to drink and drugs, according to a report today from the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

Under-diagnosis of clinical depression in men may be as high as 65 per cent, the report says, and suicide is three times more likely in men than women.

Widowed, divorced, and separated men are most vulnerable but the suicide rate is rising in married men too. In the 16 to 24 age group - young single males - there has been a 75 per cent rise in suicides since 1982. The College blames the fact

that men visit their doctors less often than women, and are more likely to talk about the physical symptoms of their de-

tional and psychological ones. The College's Factsheet on Depression in Men is published to coincide with an Action Day for Depressed Men as part of its on-going Defeat Depres-sion campaign. It says: There has been a general lack of recognition by doctors and oth-er specialists that [men's] needs and worries may be different from that of women.

This might mean thinking of innovative ways of taking health services out to men in their isolation, or the context in which

they meet or work." Let's help men, page 17

Branson accused of harassment

DAVID USBORNE

A whimsically choreographed appearance by Richard Branson, dressed in an astronaut's the New York flagship of his Virgin Megastore music chain, was rained upon yesterday by sexual harassment allegations lodged against him by a former

employee. Elizaheth Hlinko, a former public relations manager with his airline, Virgin Atlantic, filed suit against Mr Branson in a federal United States court last Friday, accusing him of making unwanted advances to her at a party at his British country home in May 1994, including

grabbing at her breasts. Ms Hlinko of New York is recollection of it," he said, also accusing Mr Branson as adding: "I am as confident as I

well as a second defendant in can be that this will be struck out. Hinko had publicised the suit the suit, David Thit, executive of the courts in a couple of vice-president of Virgin Atmonths' time." lantic, of discrimination, sug-News of the lawsuit provid-

England, she was gradually eventually forced to resign. Mr Branson vowed yesterday to contest the suit. He told the Independent he had no memory of the alleged scene and said he hoped the suit would be thrown out by the courts. The party in question, he suggested,

his parents and "50 to 60 press people".
"Personally. I don't have any recollection of this and 1 don't think anybody will have any recollection of anything at all. People I have talked to have no

had been attended by his wife,

gesting that after the incident in

ed an awkward counterpoint to the extravaganza that played out terday. With the streets almost closed off and the pavements jammed with gawking tourists, the space-suited Mr Branson was lowered several storeys to street level on an inflated replica of the ball that is lowered in the square on New Year's Eve. The hursts of nervous laugh-

ter from Mr Branson as the ball made its jerky descent were prosumably out of fear for his physical safety than concern about about the lawsuit. But once inside the shop, Mr Branson was instantly questioned about Ms Hlinko. Noting that lawyers for Ms

on the day of the store's opening, he complained: "One of the problems of America is that people can file claims and then peo

ple read about them and it is and very quickly the damage is dooc," Mr Branson said he and his lawyers had rejected a request received three months ago from Ms Hlinko's lawyers for an out-of-court settlement. Gary Ireland, Ms Hlinko's

lawyer, was unrepentant about the suit's timing. "This behav-iour cannot be tolerated," he said, referring to its core allegations. The court papers focus on the party and alleges that there, "in the presence of other employees and guests .. Branson made unwelcome advances to [Hlinko] by fondling and grabbing her breasts".

Moth hunters rake through gardens

NICHOLAS SCHOON Environment Correspondent

A hunt for a hairy and highly to begin in Essex. The Ministry of Agriculture wants to ensure the Asian gypsy moth does not get a toehold in Britain.

The moth's 2in-long larvae can munch through large areas of forest once its population builds up.

It has been spreading grad-ually into Europe from Asia. It reached Germany three years ago and has caused severe damage to plantations.

Last summer, it was found in

gardens in South Woodford, Essex for the first time. Ministry of Agriculture officials eradicated it with insecti-

cide, and they are about to return to check if any caterpillars have hatched out this year.

The officials will also issue helping them to identify the

The fear is that the insect or its eggs could reach Britain io cars, lorries or imports which have come from already-infested areas in Eastern Europe. Its numbers could boom once it arrives because of the absence of its natural predators and diseases.

The Forestry Commission has also set up pheremone traps at Britain's ports. These emit the potent chemical which the moths use to attract their mate - but the traps lure the insects to their doom.

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RSPCA wants harder line to fight cruelty

ROS WYNNE-JONES

The RSPCA yesterday called for harsher penalties for animal cruelty as it unveiled national figures showing a sharp increase in cases of neglect. Last year incidents of basic neglect, as opposed to direct ill-treatment, rose by 7 per cent, accounting for three-quarters of all RSPCA convictions for an-

imal cruelty. Revealing that 1.648 cases of neglect were discovered in 1995, the animal-welfare charity argued for tougher penalties and a scheme to microchip and nauonally register dogs. Phone calls to the society had increased by 19 per cent to more than 1.2 million, with officials responding to an animal-welfare

inquiry every 26 seconds. Cases of deliberate ill-treatment had fallen for the second year running, with the number of cruelty convictions falling by 4 per cent to 2,201. However, attacks on horses had risen by 66 per cent, from 124 in 1994 to 206 in 1995.

Yesterday the charity displayed some of the worst-neglected animals it had rescued last year, including a wealthy husinessman's dog which had been left to starve in a filthy shack, and a miniature poodle which no longer resembled a

dog when it was discovered. Bairbre O'Malley, an RSPCA veterinary surgeon who last year had to destroy a puppy which had been beaten around "It can be very difficult not to sponsibilities."

get disheartened. Sometimes I am staggered when people say they didn't know their animal was suffering."
Richard Davies, the RSPCA's

chief inspector, described how his officers were forced to deal every day with the symptoms of neglect, including animals with illnesses left untreated for months. "It outrages me that so many of the cases that RSPCA



Pictures showing how this poodle, Snowy, recovered

have been avoided," he said. "In terms of the suffering inflicted. neglect is as unforgivable as outright hrutality. No one should take on an animal unless they have thought carefully about the cost, the time and the commitment involved in looking after it. The keeping of an animal the head with a hammer, said: brings with it moral and legal re-

He added that dogs remained the main target of abuse and compulsory dog registration was an initiative which "any enlightened society would intro-

duce without resistance". The RSPCA has sought to stamp out the impulse buying of pets - one of the main reasons for animals heing neglected and hopes a government-backed registration scheme to replace the old dog licensing system can be introduced soon.

One of the worst cases of neglect the RSPCA dealt with last year was that of the miniature poodle. Snowy, whose plight only came to light when it was dumped at a London police station. Underweight and uncared for, its hair was so matted it could harely see. As well as suffering from scabies, her skin was hurnt from where she had lain in her own urine. She later recovered and was fostered to responsible owners. In another case, RSPCA of-

ficials were astonished to discover that a wealthy business man was keeping a starving Great Dane in his garden outhouse. The dog, called Duke, was barely able to walk after months of neglect and was suffering from severe mange.

sultant from Kilburn, north-west London, was eventually banned by a court from keeping a dog for five years. Duke has since been found a new home. ■ The RSPCA's 24-hour national helpline number for reporting cases of cruelty and neglect is

His owner, a property con-



The beat goes on: A busker making music at a Tube station yesterday while the High Court heard Franco de Cristofaro's appeal

Busker counts cost of appearance on the Tube

LOUISE JURY

The normally staid surrounds of the High Court in London were enlivened by the sound of music yesterday in a challenge to the han on busking at London's underground stations.

A motley band gathered in the Strand to hack fellow musician Franco de Cristofaro, a 48-year-old Italian saxophonist, drummer and member of the Magic Circle. Funded by

the London Public Entertainers' Collective, de Cristofaro was asking for a conviction at Bow Street magistrates court for breaching London Transport (LT) by-laws to he overturned.

Mr Justice Newman, sitting with Lord Justice Pill, dismisse the appeal, but despite the defeat de Cristofaro and his supporters were heartened when LT announced it was examining the by-laws which prohibit the playing of musical instruments,

gramophones and wireless apparatus on the tube network.

The High Court heard bow de Cristofaro was found playing the drums with a four-piece band at Piccadilly Circus station in March last year. Tim Clerk, for the musician, said an offence was caused if the general pub-lic were annoyed, but there was no evidence of this. A separate by-law prohibited begging or "soliciting for reward", hut de Cristofaro had not asked for

any money, although two people were spotted dropping coins in his open drum case and a colleague had been shaking a tin, in the manner of a maraca.

The band was simply playing music and "if people are pleased enough with it people give money", Mr Clerk said. But Peter Ader, for British Transport Police, said an explicit request did not have to be made for soliciting to take place.

Afterwards, de Cristofaro,

of Camden, north-west London, said: "I'm very sad because we are genuine buskers. We never harass people for money. Wc play our music, we are good entertainers." He would return to husking to pay the £2,000 or more he still owed in fines.

Two other buskers, Mike Kay and Jeremy Helm, will argue at the European Court of Justice in Strasbourg that the LT ban on busking is a breach of the hu-

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Tycoon in will case was expected to live longer

The nephew of the multi-millionaire Eric Hopton, who died before his new will was completed, had been told by a doctor that his uncle could live for another year.

22-year-old Dominic Trusted, is suing Clifford Chance, Britain's higgest legal firm, for not ensuring Eric Hopton, a property developer worth £50m, executed a new will hefore he died childless of heart failure.

But Christopher Hopton told the High Court that just hefore Hopton's death in January 1991, aged 72, he had been told he "should live until summer". Christopher was one of the been liaising between Eric Hop-ton and David Bowyer, a partner at Clifford Chance. On Eric Hopton's instructions, Christopher, a lawyer, had amended his uncle's new will late in 1990. Eric Hopton had in March 1990. Under the 1984 will Mr

Trusted stood to receive suhstantially less than in the incomplete will. The court heard that Eric Hopton's relationship with the Trusted side of the family was not close.

The court was told that the 1984 will had contained an "anti-attack" clause: "I helieve my uncle confirmed to Mr Bowyer that it was still from the

executors of the will and had Trusted side of the family that any attack might come." Christopher Hopton said.

One of the chief beneficiaries of the will, Christopher Hopton says he had a "very good relationship" with his uncle. But giving evidence, Eric

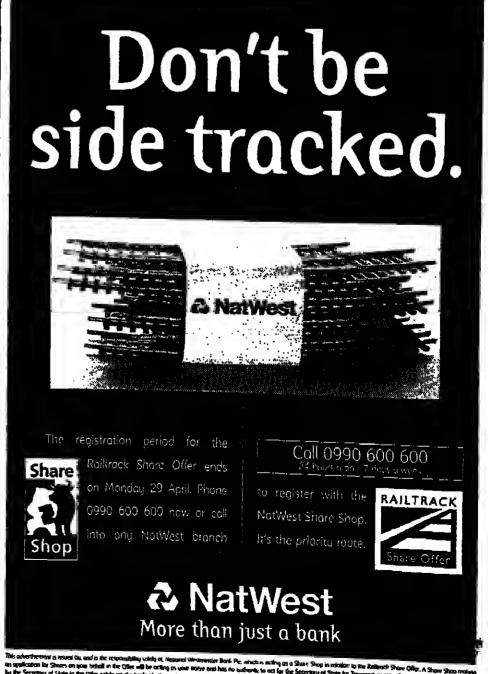
Hopton's housekeep Jean Jones, said that Eric Hopton had been "very cross" just before he died, to receive as a Christmas present from Christopher a photograph of Christopher's son, of whom he had received another photoraph the previous Christmas. "Mr Hopton was not at all pleased. He was quite cross and angry. He wanted to tear up the photograph . . . * she said. The case continues.

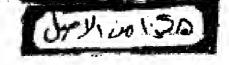
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. Row over expelled pupil: Strike-threat teachers to consider package agreed by parents, head and authority Special classes for disruptive boy, 13

FRAN ABRAMS Education Correspondent

Richard Wilding, 13, was yesterday receiving individual lu-ition at his school in Nottingham where teachers have threatened to strike from Friday over his violent and disruptive behaviour if he is not removed.

The row has escalated since

a local authority panel ordered that Richard, who was expelled from Glaisdale School after a history of violent incidents which led four times to temporary exclusion, should be returned to the school. Staff or in a mainstream class. He claimed that he was unteachable, a threat both to them and to other pupils, and members of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers voted to strike indefinitely rather than have him in the classroom.

Since the beginning of term, Richard has been taught on his own by the head and one other teacher, Last night, in a statement agreed between his parents, Rita

and Philip Wilding, the local education authority and the school's head, Mr and Mrs Wilding's solicitor Hilary Freeman said: "Following a very constructive meeting ... agreement has been reached for Richard's future education to take place partly at Glaisdale School which will eventually lead to reintegration into classes." An education authority

spokesman said the special arrangements proposed for Richard Wilding would not involve him being taught by any of the school's existing teachers, would spend one day being laught at home by a special tutor, and one at school by the head teacher. For another day and a half, he would be taught in school by a teacher from a special referral unit for disruptive children, and the remaining day and a half he would spend at at the referral unit.

members to obvious risks, That may well be a sticking point." But he said the union needed to study the agreement in detail before taking a decision and he did not want to prejudice Nigel de Gruchy, the union's what his members might decide, general secretary, said: "His reintegration would expose our

teachers' unions would accept the deal, made in a two-hour meeting with the boy's parents and local authority officials, "I hope this will avert the

strike. I am reasonably confident that it will," he said. Lo-The headteacher, David Hig-gins, said he was hopeful that the NASUWT, which represents and his mother said that they

20 of the school's 38 staff, to-day to discuss the details of the

Classiess: Richard Wilding at home yesterday, with the threat of a teachers' strike still hanging over Glaisdale School Photograph: Edward Syke

Mr Wilding said: "We are quite happy with the arrangement. It is now up to the union - if it is unacceptable to them

were happy with the agreement. Staff at the school had ob-jected to proposals that Richard should return to lessons, saying he had both learning difficulties and emotional problems and that he should be in a special unit.

On Monday the Secretary of

Shephard, criticised the local authority for the dispute, and said that the right place had obviously not been found for Riehard, However, she also criticised teachers for putting children's education at risk by threatening to strike.

Rock rolls back to Hyde Park at last

MICHAEL STREETER

Eric Clapton and Bob Dylan will headline the first Hyde Park rock concert for 20 years, it was announced yesterday.

The show, on Saturday, 29 June, is in aid of the Prince's Trust, the Prince of Wales's charity. A crowd of 150,000 is expected for the first concert in the park in central London to charge. Tickets, at £8, and television could raise £500,000.

The all-star line up will also feature former Who members Roger Daltrey, Pete Townshend and John Entwistle in a performance of the band's rock opera Quadrophenia. Another confirmed star is the US singer Alanis Morissette, though concert organiser Harvey Goldsmith says there is a "secret" list of other big names, thought to include Phil Collins.

At a press conference yesterday, Townshend said: "It's very exciting. It is a chance to do something adventurous."

Tom Shebbeare, executive discrete of the Bringe's Trust

director of the Prince's Trust, described the event as "exceptional". The last rock concert in Hyde Park was by Queen in 1976. The Rolling Stones and Blind Faith drew in the crowds in 1969 while Pavarotti's muchhyped opera concert in 1991 was drenched by a rain.

The MasterCard Masters of Music concert, to mark the Euro 96' football championship final the next day, will be the higgest one-day rock event since Blackbushe in 1978, in Berkshire, also starring Dylan and Clapton. Questions remain, such as the task of making sure every-



The figures come from the Independent Schools Information Service's annual census and cover 464,990 pupils, 80 per cent of those in all private

Boarding numbers were down by 3.5 per cent, the lowest fall since 1991, while day pupil numbers were up for the third successive year. The rise



rock in the park concerts

Infants sent off to nursery school 'like young animals'

DOUL HINDUL

Till case was

) live longer

200

Parents who send their children to school at the age of two may regret the consequences, an independent school headmistress said yesterday.

Paddy Holmes, head of Ditchfield Park School, Petersfield, Hampshire, warned that young children were being treated "like young animals", as the census showed that twoyear-olds are the fastest grow-Their numbers were np 27

of three- and four-year-olds also increased sharply. Mrs Holmes said: "We are re-

ally beginning as a nation to produce children treated in many ways more like young animals, staying with their mothers only as long as they are biologically dependent." Some children were being

sent to school in pappies because both parents worked or because their father or mother was ia io work Mrs Holmes, chairman of of two," she said.

per cent to 4,584. Proportions the Independent Schools Association Incorporated, argued that the number of fee-paying toddlers had increased because more mothers wanted to have children and a career. A private school (fees around £600 a term for under-fives) might be

the only alternative to a nanny.
"It works well socially and educationally. But we may well live to reap the dividends in emotional terms from children who are separated from their parents

Research over many years showed that the younger children were taken away from their mother or stand-in mother for many hours a day, the more likely they were to have problems later.

However, she argued that well-organised nursery education might be the best option if children had to be parted from their parents. Where such facilities were available, two- and threeyear-olds were not given formal and play constructively.

Chris Evers, the head of Cheam Hawtreys School in Newbury, Berkshire, and chairman of the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools, said that parents were sending their children to school at two because they needed diversions for their energy which the average family could not

provide.

Independent schools said yesterday that the feelgood facfor had returned as numbers in first time in five years. But the new schools opened and only 8 the previous three years.

rise was only 0.6 per cent and the number of boarders continued to fall. The biggest increases were among the under-fives and pupils from abroad.

Fee-paying schools now ac-count for about 7 per cent of the school population, about the same proportion as they did before the late Eighties boom. The number of secondary-school pupils, apart from sixth-formers, is still falling but prep school

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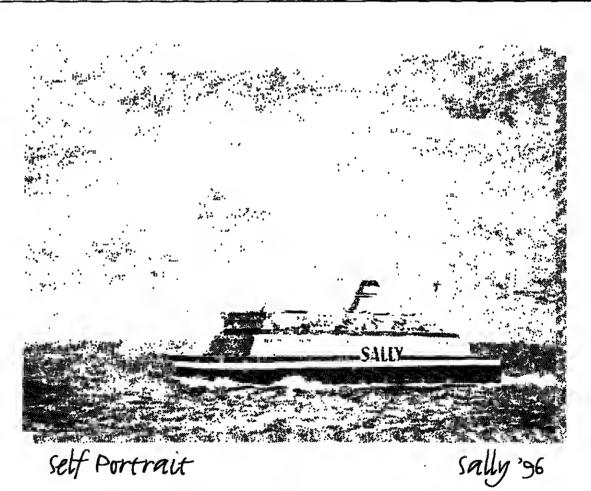
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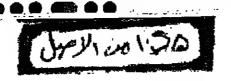
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PADES

Nurses' congress: Individual rights valued above health risk to fighters

RCN defies doctors by opposing boxing ban

BARRIE CLEMENT

Defying their colleagues at the British Medical Association, the Royal College of Nursing yesterday voted overwhelm-ingly against a ban on boxing. Oelegates at the RCN's

annual congress in Bourne mouth conceded there were serious health risks, but decided that prohibition would infringe individual rights and make the sport more dangerous by driving it underground. Christine Hancock, general

secretary of the college, said the BMA's decision had been based on clinical information 10 years ago which indicated that damage was more likely.

Speaking against a ban lichael Hayward, of Michael Portsmouth, told delegates: The RCN cannot and should not be seen to be publicly taking away further rights and choices of the individual. It is not our place to he self-righteous and sanctimonious."

Mr Hayward, a coronary care nurse and a former military policeman who boxed in the army. added: "Boxing is not safe. That cannot be disputed. Two people knocking teo bells of the proverbial out of each other is not conducive to good health. However, it is their health and

He said there had been more deaths in other sports such as rugby, powergliding and motor racing. The motion to ban boxing was opposed by 75 per cent of delegates.

Brian Kaye, chairman of the

the proposition, said delegates should ask themselves whether they wanted to live in a society where people paid to watch one individual deliberately inflicting

damage on another. Mr Kaye, of Ashworth high security hospital on Merseyside. had oursed a former professional boxer who sustained severe brain damage and who had committed violent offences as

consequence. Supporters of boxing said it was character huilding, Mr Kaye said: "But what sort of character do we want to build? The kind of character based on the ability to assault others?"

Seconding the proposition, Astrid Henderson, a colleague of Mr Kave at Ashworth, took issue with the assertion that there had only been 15 deaths from boxing since 1945. She pointed out that the statistics only covered professional fighters. She said that 500 boxers had died as a result of neurological injuries since 1884, An RCN document remind-

ed delegates that in receot times two hoxers - Bradley Stooe and James Murray - had died as a result of their boxing injuries. Such tragedies had led to received calls for legislation to prohibit professional boxing. hut a Bill in 1995 was opposed by the Government, which argued that it was an established and highly regulated sport and part of Britain's sporting her-

itage
Medical evideoce suggested that a severe blow to the head resulted in the death of brain cells. Boxers who received suc-



in flower: Ken Gardener, warden of Gibside, Co Durham, and the daffodils blooming for the first time in living memory

Rare bloom for host of daffodils

Some long overdue restoration on an 18th century estate has helped a rare species of daffodil to bloom again.
The gardens of Gibside estate

in County Durham were created by the whig MP George Bowes in the mid to late 1700s, but decades of neglect has de-prived recent generations of the sight of the daffodils, which are believed to have been planted

by his daughter. Mary.

The bright yellow daffodils, known as telamonius ptenus, have more petals than normal and instead of a firm centre trumpet, there is a clutch of soft-

er petals almost like a carnation. Ken Gardener, warden of the National Trust estate, said: "We had cleared all the brambles and weeds and this must have altowed the sun through to the soil. Now we know how Wordsworth must have felt when he saw his host of golden

One expert has already offered to buy the hulbs, but they are classed as wild flowers and

Society for Nursing People with a learning disability, moving suffer irreversible brain damage. Local pay could provoke action

BARRIE CLEMENT

Ministers were warned by the moderate Royal College of Nursing yesterday that they risked provoking outbreaks of industrial action through their determination to introduce local pay into the National Health Service.

Christine Hancock, general secretary of the college, questioned the "individual independence and integrity" of Pay Review Body members who cooperated with the Government's policy of shifting salary negotiations down to trust level. Speaking after the RCN an-

oual congress in Bournemouth overwhelmingly passed a resolution calling for a restoration of the body's independence, she said national pay awards avoided disruption of services. The spectre of industrial

action is associated with local pay, not with the national scenario. That's the risk the Government is introducing in a fragmented local pay system."
Last year, the college abandoned its ban on industrial action in the wake of a decision

by the Pay Review Board to award a 1 per cent national increase to nurses, enhanced by up to 2 per cent in trust-based bargaining. This year the body offered a 1 per cent rise, but gave no guidelines for local

The RCN conference fought shy of a motion declaring that the pay advisory organisation was "oo longer an appropriate body" for nurses, instead it hacked a resolution, backed by 94 per cent of delegates, calling oo the college's oational council to work for greater independence.

A series of angry delegates rounded oo the national salary committee for following the Government's line. Ms Hancock said that the debate constituted "a very strong personal attack on the integrity and independence

of members of the review body" Sylvia Thomas, a represen-tative oo the oational shop stewards' committee, said that the Government's policy had set "nurses against doctors, hospital against hospital and trust against trust".

Policy change over employing offenders

The Royal College of Nursing is today expected to call for rules preventing serious criminal offenders practising as ourses after a convicted rapist was allowed to resume his career.

The college is already taking legal action to overturn last month's decision by the Unit-ed Kingdom Central Council on Nursing, the nurses' disciplinary body, which decided to readmit

Yuen How Choy. Mr Choy, 50, a nurse spe-cialising in mental health, raped a former patient in her home in 1983. He received a two-year



sentence, 12 months of which were suspended and was struck off by the UKCC. He had a previous conviction in 1972 for drugging a patient in order to

Speaking at a fringe meeting in Bournemouth, Tariq Hussain, director responsible for professional conduct at the council, said the UKCC might consider changing its policy over the readmission of nurses at a meeting in June. That could mean the council banning rapists and other offenders. Mr Hussain said that a special committee had made the

decision to restore Mr Choy after receiving a series of per-sonal references.

One was from the manage of a psychiatric clinic, another from a professional colleague and a recommendation from a

He was "very open about the offence and showed remorse for his behaviour, "Mr Hussain said. Mr Hussain said the council was keen to ensure that people who were not fit to be on the ourses' register were removed

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be nice if the

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Solutions for a small planet

Police dig up garden for missing woman

JASON BENNETTO Crime Correspondent

Police were excavating in the garden of a house yesterday in search of the body of an 18-year-old woman who disappeared more than four years ago.

The residents of the council house, a 59-year-old woman and her 26-year-old son, were heing questioned as the excavations took place.

Nicola Payne went missing on 14 December 1991 as she made a 10-minute walk from her boyfriend's house to her parents' house in Coventry. The house being searched yesterday was in Wood End, about 150 yards from Ms Payne's home.

Digging took place in pouring rain in three spots in the large garden, including an area under the garden shed, in patches where electronic equipment suggested that the soil had been disturbed. The police were being helped by a team who used radar machines to search the house in Cromwell Street, Gloucester, where the mass murderers Frederick and Rosemary West lived. The Coventry excavations took place in a garden 18ft by 100ft.



Nicola Payne: Disappeared on foggy night in 1991

The operation, which involved 35 officers from the West Midlands Police, began at 6am when they went to the house with a search warrant. This followed new information passed to the police after an appeal in December about the missing teenager. Police said the two people at the house that they were investigating were "aware" of Ms Payne hut refused to give further details.

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Ms Payne disappeared at just after 12.10pm after leaving the home of her boyfriend, Jason Cooke, in thick fog. She had taken her seven-month-old son, Owen, to stay with his father as the couple made last-minute buried objects. plans for moving into their new three-bedroom house the next

That day the area was enveloped in thick fog, and Nico-la was last seen setting off into the mist across a piece of wasteland known locally as the Black are also stressing that the opmassive police search, and a total of £10,000 in reward money offered by her family and friends, no trace of her has been

Police said yesterday that Ja-son Cooke had been ruled out clusion and get on with the grieving process, but another of the investigation.

Detective Superintendent Boh Minshull said that several potential buriat sites had been found using radar and electronic probing equipment.

He said yesterday: "We have for sure.' found several sites that we are now looking at closely. We have moved one of the garden sheds and lifted flagstones. So far we have found nothing but we are

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to search for human remains was used during the search, along with a ground-probing radar and electrical resistance equipment to search the soil for Any "hot spots" identified will be examined by Professor

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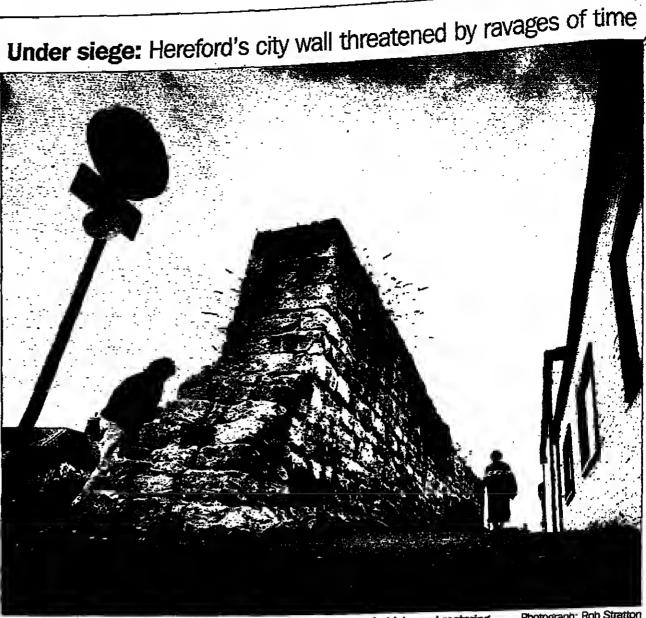
John Hunter, a forensic science archaeologist from Birmingham University. The search may take up to four days to complete. Officers

Pad. Four years later, despite a eration is just one new line of inquiry in the case, and that nobody has been arrested. John Payne, Nicloa's father, said: "Part of me wants to know so we can come to some con-

> know the truth if it is bad news. "If they do find anything it will he what I bave always dreaded, but on the other hand at least I will know something

part of me doesn't want to

He said of the household be-ing searched: "We know the family quite well because Nicola and their youngest son were at school together. My lad and their eldest son were mates."



Crumbling: Dave Baxter inspecting Hereford's ancient city wall, parts of which need restoring

Defences attacked by new enemies

Hereford's ancient city walls are three fronts from a new enemy facing the higgest threat to their future since 12,000 Roundheads tried to reduce the red sandstone defences to rubble in 1645.

During a six-week siege the Earl of Leven's Scots army dug a series of underground mines which were then set alight in a

hid to collapse the walls pro-tecting the Royalist stronghold. The move failed, but the mile-long 13th-century walls

- severe erosion, traffic pollution and self-seeding plants which are damaging the stonework. The circular walls are still 16ft high in places and the remains are a scheduled ancient monument of national

importance.
But tomorrow Hereford planners will discuss a report by conservation officer Dave Baxter which says the wall has been neglected, ahused and are now under attack on at least left to deteriorate during the with fractures in the stonework responsibility seriously.

years and warns: "It is essential that this situation is remedied ... to secure the life and appearance of the wall."

Councillors are expected to approve his calls for a repair programme to be prepared and costed in association with English Heritage. It will involve the removal of cherry trees and huddleia which have self-seeded on the wall. The report also says some sections have been defaced by graffiti and are bulging

and some stones missing. Work-men took 60 years to erect the city walls. Only two of the 17 original half-round towers re-main and all six main gates were demolished during the 1790s. Hereford's director of ar-

chaeology, Ron Shoesmith, said the remaining walls "are a very significant part of Hereford's history ... some sections are in a poor state, but I don't think the neglect has been deliberate and the council are taking their

£400m health plan dropped

NICHOLAS TIMMINS Public Policy Editor

Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, has scrapped a controversial healthpromotion programme by GPs on which the Government has spent more than £400m over the

In a deal with the British Medical Association's family doctors' committee he has agreed that from the autumn GPs will be free to agree their own health-promotion activities locally with health authorities and he paid for them.

Since 1990, in one of the more controversial parts of the

they have been asked to count the numbers of their patients aged 15-74 who smoke and record their blood pressure, alcohol consumption and obesity, together with family histories of heart disease and stroke, and offer advice on better lifestyle.

contract that Kenneth Clarke im-

interventions by nurses aimed at changing lifestyle were "of litless intensive, the benefit was "likely to be even smaller".

At the time, academics said there was no evidence that such costly activity would improve health. And the degree of formfilling left GPs complaining that the scheme was hureaucratic, untargeted and involved counting numbers rather than improving patients' health.

proach of the current programme, Mr Dorrell's new package goes to the other exdoctors' activities. It allows GPs

The death-knell for the authorities what is likely to he posed on family doctors when scheme came in 1994 with an Secretary of State for Health, evaluation of the British Famorets of Health of the Nation targets ily Heart Study. It demonstrated that much more intensive and locally agreed priorities.

Family doctors will then set

out the programmes they intend to follow, but once approved will tle benefit" and concluded that then merely have to confirm given that the approach the GPs they have carried out the agreed were heing asked to follow was activities to be paid. The £87.5m that the scheme cost last year remains in the system to pay for the new approach. A Department of Health spokesman said the change "recognises the professional skills of GPs in treme, moving away from the in- developing health promotion, creasingly intensive audit of cuts out paperwork and directs doctors activities. It allows GPs to decide with their local health than form-filling."

Lorelei

The stones of kin and friend Stretch off into a trembling, sweatlike haze.

After the prescriptive ap-

But you have followed them. Each strands you, then

Soft gleams lap the base of the one beland you

it's she who some day (when your stone is in place)

MP sues Mirror over 'untrue article'

The Conservative MP Rupert Aliason yesterday launched an action for malicious falsehood against the Daily Mirror over an article which was "untrue in every material respect".

The MP for Torbay, representing himself, told High Court judge Sir Maurice Drake that the item, in November 1992, appeared just four days after the newspaper settled his lihel ac-tion over an editorial by paying substantial undisclosed damages. The item said 50 MPs had challenged him to demonstrate his concern for Maxwell pensioners by giving them the es-timated £250,000 libel damages which he won from the newspaper over articles concerning

Robert Maxwell. Mr Allason said there was no such challenge - an Early Day Motion with just seven signa-

effect. By the time it "died". within a fortnight, it still only had 31 signatures.

The amount of damages. which the newspaper had asked Mr Allason to keep confidential, was in fact £200,000.

The MP said the success of his action depended on publication of something false which was uncontested - malice, and financial loss to himself. And he said the publicity caused him - in his role as Nigel West, author of non-liction on security matters - to lose a puhlishing deal with the Holmes Security Group of New York.

The newspaper's former po-litical editor. Alastair Campbell; political journalist Andy Mc-Smith, now with the Observer, and MGN Ltd are contesting the action. The case continues.

DAILY POEM

By James Merrill

They may not after all be stepping-stones

Does not. Not yet. Not here.

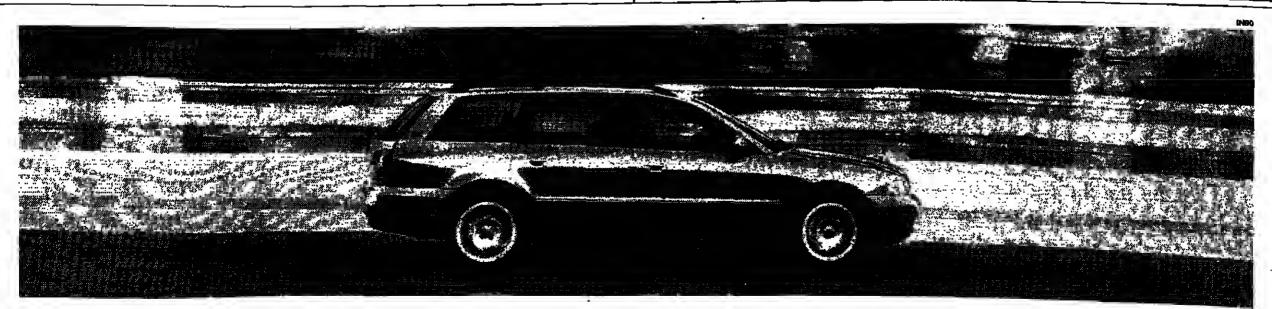
Is it a crossing? Is there no way back?

On which a black girl sings and combs her hair.

Will see that much further into the golden vagueness

Forever about to clear. Love with his chisel Deepens the lines begun upon your face.

James Merrill (1926-1995) was described by Harold Bloom as the "Mozart of American poetry", his style "classical rather than mannerist or baroque", and with a mastery of "the changing light or perfection that consoles". At his death he had published mure than a dozen books of poetry and had received the Bollingen and Pulitzer prizes. His Selected Poems are published this week by Carcanet at £9.95.



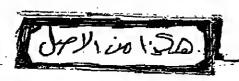
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politics

Stratford Tories have no other medicine ... only hope | Land-mine



JAMES CUSICK

To win or not to win, that is no longer the question for the Tories of Straiford-on-Avon. Having seen their "natural Tory seat" slip gradually into the hands of the Liberal Democrats, and watched their MP. Alan Howarth, switch from true blue to new red, next week's local elections is not a battle the Tories of south Warwickshire

are relishing.
"Men shut their doors against a setting sun," wrote the town's famous playwright, Down to only 19 of the district's 55-seat council, and holding 11 of the 18 wards up for clection next week, Tory canvassers have not had an casy job convincing Stratford their sun can rise again.
Stratford is a "no overall

control" council. However the 24 Liberal Democrats and the nine independents effectively run this prosperous, predomi-nantly rural, district. Four more seats for the Liberal Democrats will give them overall control

new enemies

n dropped

WHA BURN

for the first time. Last year more than 2.5 million tourists "from the four corners of the world" flooded into Shakespeare's town, Tourism was last year worth £100m. The income from the numerous "Shakespearean" tearooms alone would probably he the envy of some Third World chancellors, Only the beadquarters of the Rover car group at Gaydon challenges

tourism as a wealth generator. Stretching from Moreton-

in-Marsh in the south, bound-



ed by the M42 in the north-west and stretching almost to Daventry in the east, the district is dominated by Strauford, The town generates wealth, but, says the Conservative group leader, Ruth Styles, it takes a

high percentage of the hudget. Mrs Styles, who retires next week after 18 years as a councillor, has watched her party's fortunes rise and then decline. She hesitates in trying to explain why, but says; "It all stems from the town of Stratford itself. It has so much money, it scarcely knows what to do with it." Kenneth Clarke should be

Mrs Styles said Stratford was unusual in that the town council was the major landlord, which meant it did not need to raise additional revenue from resi-

Fairer distribution of the district's resources will be one issue under consideration next week. But the cut and thrust of party politics, policies, personalities and philosophies seems strangely absent. Until the mid-1970s, Stratford was "independent". It was discreetly blue, but never true blue. But as local government enmeshed itself in the identity of the national parties, the Tories took control.

Stratford council

18 seats are up for re-election.

Criment council: no overall control

The current council leader, Liberal Democrat Jean Holder, is similarly not too sure why party fortunes have changed. She delivers a lengthy list in explanation: "We are explanation: explanation: "We are approachable, willing to talk.

look at what people want, we

form partnerships, we listen, we Liberal Democrats have been

are not secret,"

She could have been describing the Samaritans, yet the recipe has worked. Alan Howarth's defection was a er is philosophical: "I'm not sure where Alan's natural home is. I thought he was a staunch Tory who had worked for change from the inside. But I was

Before the polls even open one of the existing Tories, Roger Wright in the Wellingbourne Ward, has already left the party whip and is standing as an

Photograph: Brian Harris

unopposed in four wards. Geraint Morgan's Lahour group of three councillors, admits the area "is not natural Labour". But he has an expladisappointment, but Mrs Hold- nation for the change in controlling parties. "The Liberal Democrats here are illusionists. You can't tell the difference between them and the Tories. So they appeal to the disillusioned Tory voters."

Doubling their seats to six would be a small triumph for Labour. And triumph for the Tories? As the Bard of Avon

policy derided as 'a con'

CHRISTOPHER BEILLAMY Defence Correspondent

The Government yesterday announced it would work towards achieving a total, worldwide ban on anti-personnel landmines. But in the meantime, Britain will proceed with plans to replace half its current stock with new "smart" mines which destroy themselves after a period of time. Labour reacted angrily, accusing the Govern-ment of a "con".

David Davis, a Foreign Office minister, told Parliament that Britain would destroy 44 per cent of the Army's stockpile immediately. Should an in-ternational ban be agreed, Britain would renounce all antipersonnel mines and destroy them. But otherwise the remaining 46 percent will he replaced with new mines.

The announcement coincides with the start of the UN Weapons Convention review Conference in Geneva, but was criticised by the Opposition and international organisations, including the Red Cross, as it falls short of an immediate, unilateral gesture to destroy all of Britain's anti-personnel mines and renounce them as a weapon of war. Australia and Germany recently renounced anti-per-

sonnel mines completely.

Dr David Clark, Labour's defence spokesman, said: "The Government claims it will work for a world-wide ban on landmines. The reality is that it will buy more mines and modernise

acceptable weapon, written by the Labour MP Ann Clwyd, was released yesterday to coincide with the Government's announcement. She said: "Today's much-hyped announcement conceals the fact they are not proposing a unilateral ban on anti-personnel mines."

Britain has not exported mines since 1982 but still holds tens of thousands in case they are needed for use. These are all "dumb" mines, which remain dangerous until cleared. "Smart" mines self-destruct after a while, so they do not endanger people years after a conflict has ended. Britain has until now resisted demands for a total ban on the grounds that it would not work, as the nations exporting most deadly small mines - China, India and Pakistan – are unlikely to take any notice. Russia has declared a three-year moratorium on ex-

porting "dumh" mines.

Mr Davis said the main concern was not the use of mines by professional armies, but in civil wars, such as those in Cambodia, Somalia and Bosnia where they lie around and kill and main thousands of people. There are an estimated 100 million small mines around the world, which maim or kill about 20,000 people a year.

Until now, British policy has been that "smart mines" will be more effective in reducing casualties. International organisations campaigning for a total han argue that self-destructing

Euro-sceptics close ranks in show of strength

Tory Euro-sceptics yesterday staged a show of strength in the Commons as one of their Duncan-Smith, proposed a Bill to overrule the judgments of the

European Court of Justice. With former Cabinet ministers Norman Lamont and John Redwood sitting alongside in support, the Chingford MP said the increasingly political court had to be put in its place.

"We are ... witnessing a process of judge-made law which goes far beyond the tra-ditional scope of the British national courts and cuts across the vital concept that law-makers should he fully accountable to their electorate," Mr Duncan-

Inside **Parliament**

Stephen Goodwin Smith told the House of Com-

Though the MP's European Communities (European Court) Bill was rejected by 83 votes to 77, the significant fig-ure was the 66 Tories who lined up to support a measure going way beyond government policy. Earlier, at Question Time, whether to retaliate or negotiate in response to the European Union ban on British beef.

"At some point in time, the Prime Minister will have to admit the brutal truth to himself that the husiness of his government is less designed at running an administration than appeasing the factions within the Conservative Party," the Labour leader said. Stung by a series of ECJ judg-ments, including one allowing

Spanish fishermen to claim up to £30m compensation for being banned from British waters, system and to limit its powers to impose retrospective costs.

Mr Duncan-Smith's Bill would have amended the European Communities Act 1972 to give Parliament a right to review judgments and doctrines of the court and overrule those considered contrary to the original domestic legislation.

"The European Court is a po-litical court and it sees its role as the architect of European integration," he said. German and French courts had powers to review ECJ rulings and Britain should do the same.

Tony Blair had highlighted the influence of the sceptics as he exploited the mixed messages from Cabinet ministers over will attempt to get an appeals

At stake was the question whether Parliament could make, hreak or amend its own Acts of Parliament, Mr Duncan-

"Entrusted with the British rights and freedoms, it's whether we are content to do this or hand these over bit by bit to Brussels."

Opposing the Bill, Charles Kennedy, Liberal Democrat spokesman on Europe, pointed out that two British companies - Ladbroke and British Petroleum – had important cases on competition policy before the European Court. "If they win ... they will expect the rules to stick.
"But the rules would not

stick, the rules would not even

The Government's attempt to lift the beef ban via the European Court was a "classic example of wanting to have your cake - or, your beef, in this case and eat it." Mr Kennedy said.

"When it suits them, they're willing to use what is available to them via the ECJ. When it doesn't suit, they're willing ... to tear up the entire basis of it."

The Conservatives should come clean, the MP said, adding: "If they want us out of Europe, which the passing of this Bill would be tantamount to, they should say so."

Labour in move to end candidate row

Labour chiefs look set to end Michael Wills, a friend of shadcandidate for the Swindon North constituency today by ap-pointing a special panel to in-terview the final shortlist again. The move comes despite an

attempt to force a re-run of the voting by the man defeated in the original ballot for Labour's candidate for the seat at the next general election.

Jim D'Avila, a Rover factory convener who is backed by the Amalgamated. Engineering and Electrical Union, took legal action in an attempt to win a fresh ballot after he was beat-

A Labour Party report into the selection process for the Wiltshire marginal seat found that there may have been tampering with the votes in a "fundamentally flawed" procedure.

Last month, a High Court judge urged Labour to reconsider its decision not to hold a fresh hallot, but upheld the party's right to impose a candidate. Party sources expect that members of the ruling National Executive Committee will accept a proposal that a panel should interview the final shorten by television producer list of candidates once more.



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Lebanon crisis: UN commander infuriated by claims that Hizbollah are still using bases as cover for rocket attacks on Galilee

'Israel bid to justify future massacre'

ROBERT FISK

In an unprecedented exchange with the Israeli army, the UN commander in southern Lehanon yesterday accused his Israeli opposite number of trying to justify future Qana-style massacres by claiming that Hizbollah guerrillas are still using UN bases for cover to fire Katyusha rockets into Galilee.

General Stanislaw Wozniak. Polish commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (Unifil), wrote in a letter to the Israeli military command that the Israeli assertion was "a transparent effort to jusufy further tragedies, should they occur, as a result of continuing random (Israeli) shelling of Unifil area of operations."

More than 120 refugees are now known to have been massacred at Qana when Israeli 155mm guns fired salvoes of shells among the 860 Lebanese civilians crowded inside the headquarters of the UN's Fijian battalion on Thursday. Bizarrely, the Israelis - accusing the same UN soldiers of allowing a Katyusha to be fired at Galilee from the same area complained not about the Fijians but ahout the *New Guinea" hattalion of the UN. There are no Unifil soldiers from New Guinea, which is 2,000 miles from Fiji.

In a claim which stunned UN personnel in southern Lebanon vesterday, Israel stated that UN peace-keepers were "irresponsible" in giving sanctuary to the refugees while not preventing Katyusha attacks launched from near their bases -an allegation which apparently prompted the suspicion that the Israelis wished Unifil to expel the 5,000 refugees taking sanctuary in UN posts and thus fulfil Israel's orders to them to leave their homes.

Unitil has a moral and legal obligation to offer humanitarian assistance to the people living in its area under incredibly difficult circumstances." General Wozniak retorted. "Irresponsibility is not trying to protect these innocent noncombatants, but firing at them." Timur Goksel, Unifil's

spokesman, acknowledged that General Wozniak had responded to Israel's claims, adding that "the armed elemenis (Hizbollah) are local people who make use of their intimate knowledge of the terrain and who move in small, mobile teams. They make sure that they are not seen from UN posis. At times there is nobody around when the rockets are fired because of the use of timers." Taking up this point, General Wozniak wrote to the Israelis that "my understanding is that it is this phenomenon and not Unifil's sheltering of innocent civilians which has brought your operations against

The Israelis claim they were firing at the site of a Katyusha rocket launch 350m from the Qana UN compound when they killed the refugees. On Sunday General Frank Van Kappen, special representative of Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the UN Secretary-General, said he had an appointment to question the Israeli Chief of Staff, Gen-eral Amnon Lifkin Shahak, about the massacre.

Lehanon to its 13th day.

Yesterday it transpired he had been too busy to discuss the slaughter with the UN officer and had delegated the task to his second-in-command.



Hopeful gesture: Warren Christopher (right) at a meeting with Shimon Peres in Jerusalem

Defiance in the orange groves

ROBERT FISK Batulay, southern Lebanon

Captain Ole Tomh was leading our little United Nations convoy across the hattlefield of southern Lebanon. Not an auspicious name, I had to admit, us a muffled roar from far out over the orange groves set the UN radios crackling. "Two Katyushas," a Fijian voice said. The thump of Israeli shells followed, and a grey cloud rose from he-

hind the hill line. All around us, the orchards spread away, deep green foliage lit by the golden. unpicked fruits. We were carrying milk pow-der, tinued meat and fruit to two villages inside the battle zone, two hamlets set on rocky plateaux where a few hundred Lebanese civilians stubbornly refuse to leave their homes only a mile or so from the Israeli gun line. Could anyone want to go on living through this. I had to

ask myself as the shells went on

cracking into the neighbouring village of Oleile. Their detona-

tion changed the air pressure over the glistening orchards.

But when we arrived in Buyut es-Saed there they were, smilng women and elderly men, a schoolmaster and a clutch of children, walking out of their houses to greet us. Polish UN troops began to unload the sacks of food. We heard the jet before Captain Tomb caught sight of the spray of phospho-rus dripping bright and pink through the sky, a decoy for heat

seeking missiles that always pre-

cedes an air strike.

From the orchards where the Katyusha had been fired there was a hollow explosion and a brown cloud of smoke rose over the orange trees. The UN radio broke in, "Two Katyushas." This time they were heing fired from Qabriqa, far to the north west. The villagers of Buyut es-Saed paid scarcely any attention. They just went on unloading their precious sup-plies, courteously shaking hands with the UN soldiers.

A humanitarian affairs officer took notes. A woman had given birth three days ago; she needed medical attention. A herd of 2,000 goats had wan-

dered into the village two days ago and the people were trying to water them although no-one knew from what village bom-bardment the animals had fled. I found the schoolmaster,

Hassan Safiedin, near the UN truck. Why did he stay, I asked him, when 400,000 had fled? "It is our duty to stay on our land. It is better we should die here than run away. This is my land, my house, my home, my fami-The three children killed in the ambulance [attacked by an Israeli helicopter] near here were all in my school. My children were in their class. But we must stay here all the same, to prevent any other people from king our land,

Why do the Israelis stay on our land?" Here the schoolmaster looked up at the Israeli gun emplacement above us. "If they would leave, the war would end. Yes, I am afraid, and so are all the people here. There are 120 of us. Yes, we would be very happy if the Israelis left and the Lebanese army came here to protect us.

and back to the coast road, past the shattered amhulance, unloading more food to a Fijian UN position. And on to Batulay, the shells still swishing over-head, the same delighted faces - there were up to 700 people here who had refused Israel's orders to leave their homes.

The women walked down from their homes, some carrying children, others with middleaged, frightened husbands. And they smiled so happily to welcome the foreigners who could not protect them, who could only hand out food and retreat to the coast, who six days ago in Qana were unable to save the lives of just such trusting, innocent people from Israel's shells.

In the jeep, the radio continued the war across southern Lebanon, "Three Katyushas," it barked. This time at Ghandouriyeh, probably fired at Kiryat Shmona. It was like a sinister football report, each incoming Israeli round, each outgoing Katyusha logged in dry military jargon. And all the otect us." while the oranges glowed from the dark orchards.

Syria snubs Christopher peace drive

PATRICK COCKBURN Jerusalem and ASYA ABDL-HADI

In a snub which augurs badly for an agreement to end the fight-ing in Lehanon. President Hafez al-Assad of Syria yesterday refused to see Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, when he returned to Damascus on the fourth day of his shuttle in search of an agreement between Syria and Israel.

Mr Christopher was told by Syria's Foreign Minister, Farouq al-Sharaa, that President Assad was "not available", a State Department official said. The refusal to meet Mr Christopher, whom he saw twice the day before, suggests President Assad is dissatisfied with American mediation.

Syria wants to return to the 1993 understanding in Lebanon, whereby Israel and Hizbollah, the Lebanese guerrilla movement, pledge not to attack each other's civilians. Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, who faces an election in five weeks, wants to show the bomhard-ment of south Lebanon has produced results for Israel. He wants immunity from attack by Hizbollah for Israeli troops in the occupation zone in south Lebanon and greater freedom of action for Israeli forces to fire

into villages deemed hostile. Jerusalem, Mr Christopher sounded more optimistic. He showed Mr Peres a one-page document, presumably outlining peace proposals. Later a White House official said of the snuh by President Assad: "Do not read too much into this."

The fighting in Lehanon overshadowed the meeting in Gaza of the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, the first time it has met on Palestinian territory. Leila Khalid, the former ijacker, boycotted the session. saying: "I received a call from my sisters in Lehanon ridiculing my return and saying that they are being displaced."

Mrs Khalid sat outside the hall in the centre of Gaza City as Yasser Arafal, chairman of the PLO, told the Palestinian National Council the time had come to amend its charter. He has already agreed that clauses calling for the destruction of Israel should be removed.

Mr Arafat said parliament should "amend all articles that contradict the peace of the hrave. He added that this would strengthen "our negotiating position and remove the pretexts with which the Israeli vernment is armed".

It is not a view endorsed by all members of the parliament, which claims to represent 4 million Palestinians abroad as well as 2.3 million in the West Bank and Gaza, Mrs Khalid told the Independent that her group, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, opposed "changing the charter as this is against the goal of our people. cannot change it until Israel recognises our national rights".

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But Mr Arafat is likely to get what he wants. Under the terms of the latest Israel-Palestinian agreement, signed at Taba in Egypt last year, the council must amend or revoke the charter by 7 May. Mr Arafat looks determined to keep his promise, hoping it will speed up Israeli withdrawal from Hehron, the large Palestinian city south of Jerusalem.

Israel's military campaign in Lebanon, and the crippling blockade imposed on the West Bank and Gaza in response to suicide bombings by Palestinian militants, will make it more difficult for Mr Arafat to muster the required two-thirds majority. Abdul-Rahim Mullah, a member of the PLO executive committee, said he opposed "amendment just because it's an Israeli dictate".

To meet Israeli demands without appearing to bow to Israeli dictation, the council may vote to adopt a new char-ter without revoking the old one, and Mr Arafat has referred to this as one possibility.

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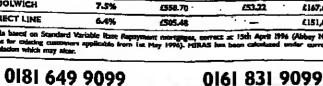
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Storm brews over Tudjman plan to rebury Croatian Fascist leader In an interview with the Zagreb newspaper Vecemii List, be added that "[Pavelie's] idea and Gypsies, and for aiming to kill one-third of Serbs on its territory, exile one-third and TONY BARBER

Europe Editor

Croatia said yesterday that the remains of Ante Pavelic, Croatia's Fascist leader during the Second World War, should be returned to his homeland.

In remarks likely to provoke severe criticism at home and ahroad, Mr Tudjman said: I support the idea that the bones of every Croatian man who lived for Croatia should be returned to Croatian soil. Why eave Pavelic out of it?"

of general elections.

'Definitive ceasefire' for Sierra Leone

Yamoussoukro — The Sierra Leone government and its rebel focs said they had agreed a ceasefire after five years of civil war. Ivory

Coast's President Henri Konan Bedie, who hrokered peace talks

between Sierra Leone's new civilian President, Ahmad Tejan Kab-

bah, and the rebel leader Foday Sankoh, said the agreement was

the "definitive ceasefire" in a war that has devastated the West

Korean aide says 'sorry' for taking bribes

Seoul - Chang Hak Ro, a former top aide to President Kim Young

Sam of South Korea, confessed to taking hribes of about 700m

won (£600,000) in return for business favours, and apologised in

court for the scandal, which deeply embarrassed Mr Kim ahead

Warsaw - Janusz Marszalek, the investor hehind a controver-

sial plan to build a supermarket near the former Auschwitz death

camp, has decided to drop the project. The head of the compa-

ny developing the site in southern Poland said work there had

Bangkok - Burmese troops at the jungle headquarters of the

former opium warlord Khun Sa face a critical food shortage as

anti-government guerrillas cut their supply lines according to Thai

and guerrilla sources. Government troops have asked Thailand to open its border to allow supplies to come through. Reuter

Phnom Penh - Christopher Howes, 36, a British land-mine removal expert, and his Cambodian interpreter, seized almost a

month ago by suspected Khmer Rouge guerrillas, are believed to be suffering from malaria. The government's regional com-

mander, Major General Khan Savoeun, said messengers sent to

act as go-betweens had reported the hostages were ill.

Death escapes young lovers ... again

'Auschwitz' supermarket plan dropped

Burmese troops go hungry in jungle

een halted and would not be resumed.

Cambodia hostages fall ill

President Franjo Tudjman of of creating a Croatian state contained positive things, but it must also be acknowledged he made terrible mistakes in the

implementation of his policy." Pavelic, the leader of the extreme nationalist Ustashe movement, created a Nazihacked puppet state known as the Independent State of Croatia (NDH) in 1941. The NDH, which also included Bosnia, is

hest remembered for the sys-tematic slaughter of Serbs, Jews

After the Nazi collapse in 1945, Pavelic went into hiding in Austria and Italy before leaving for Argentina in 1948. The then Communist Yugoslav state demanded his extradition as a war criminal, hut Argentina's

authorities rejected the request.

In 1957 Pavelic was wounded in an assassination attempt, believed to have heen masterminded by the Yugoslav secret police. He settled secretly in

convert a third to Catholicism.

Franco's Spain, where he died in Madrid in 1959.

Mr Tudjman coupled his call for the return of Pavelic's remains with a suggestion that the founder of Communist Yugoslavia, Josip Broz Tito, who was half-Croat, should be buried in Croatia instead of Belgrade. Mr Tudjman, a former Communist general who fought with Tito's forces, said history would remember Tito as a great wartime leader. However, it is his proposal concerning Pavelic that will cause the greatest controversy.

IN BRIEF THE INDEPENDENT

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Taipei - First they drove a car off a cliff. Then they tried to hang themselves. In their latest failed suicide bid, two Taiwanese lovers, Huang Pin-jen, 27, and Chang Shu-mei, 26, jumped hand-in-hand from the 12th floor of their hotel, but landed on the roof of a five-story restaurant. They are in a stable condition in hospital, Hill House Hammond A police spokesman said the couple's parents disapproved of their relationship, but had "agreed to settle their dispute with the young

Cket attacks on Galilee ria snubs ristopher ace drive

Kremlin boasts over Chechen chief's 'death'

PHIL REEVES

Russia's murky war in Chechnya was thrown into deeper con-fusion last night after a report that the rebet leader, Dzhokhar Dudayev, is dead.

The claim was circulated by the Itar-Tass agency. It said the general, whose 16-month hartle with Russia has threatened Boris Yeltsin's presidency, was killed in a missile attack.

But Interfax news agency published a denial by the gen-If true, suppo eral's personal secretary. Saipudi Khasanov He said the general was "working as usual".

Tass said his death was announced in Grozny by Khozh-Akhmed Yarikhanov, one of Dudayev's top aides, after a Russian missile attack on a village, 18 miles south-west of Grozny. There was "no doubt"

rounded the report, which gripped Moscow and Grozny. On the one hand, Tass has long been a conduit for official misinformation, and premature reports of General Dudayev's death have arisen hefore. On the other, specific details were emerging about the rocket attack, near Gekhi-Chu village, in which two of the general's se-

If true, supporters of Mr Yeltsin will present the killing of General Dudayev, who has been a thorn in the presidential hide since declaring Chechnya independent in 1991, as a tri-umph. Russia's President has refused to negotiate directly with

him, calling him a "mad dog". Whether it would deliver long-term dividends for the Dudayev was dead, he reportedly said. Tass later reported Mr could lead to a bloody struggle

Yarikhanov as saying he had seen General Dudayev's body. Last night, uncertainty sur-Russian sentiment and prolong the conflict. "Any new leader would be expected to fight the Russians for some time hefore of "frontal and army aviation". he carned the right from his fol-lowers to negotiate," said Alexander Iskandarian, a po-

litical analyst. "Otherwise he would be regarded as a traitor." The death announcement followedfresh evidence that Mr Yeltsin's security officials are undermining his attempts to end the war. The latest to put his opposition on record is his national security adviser, Yuri Baturin. He described Mr Yeltsin's peace plan of 31 March, as "premature", saying it would cost Rus-

sia "very dearly". Russia's Defence Minister. General Pavel Grachev told the State Duma (parliament) last week he did not tell troops about the ceasefire until five

have come into effect. In what appears to have been an act of flagrant insubordination, Gencral Grachev admitted issuing a secret order allowing the use

The Russian commander in the region, General Vyacheslav Tikhomirov has also made clear his hostility to the plan. The apparent defiance of Mr

Yeltsin by his military chiefs a mood which appears to have deepened after the death of at least 53 Russian troops in a Chechen ambush eight days ago - may explain the disparity between the President's words and his army's deeds in the last three weeks.

Mr Yeltsin has insisted the Russian military have carried out no actions in Chechnya since he announced the peace initiative on 31 March, Yet numerous reports show the aerial and artillery bombing of days after it was supposed to Chechen villages has continued.



Estonians bemused by church split

ADRIAN BRIDGE

Among the spires and towers of Tallinn's medieval skyline, the golden onion-shaped domes of the Aleksander Nevsky cathedral appear strangely out of place. Despite its beauty, Estonians resent it. Architecturally, they say, it sticks out like a sore thumb. More irritatingly, it is a reminder of years under Russian and Soviet rule. Moreover, its location opposite the national parliament is seen as pure provocation.

Devotions have been particularly fervent following the celebration of the Orthodox Easter but they have also been tinged with fear, because of the decision earlier this year of a number of parishes to break away from the jurisdiction of the Patriarch of Moscow and place themselves under the Patriarch of Constantinople.

Those behind the move said it was simply a restoration of the situation that existed before the 1940 Soviet annexation and that, while they would now come under Constantinople, the more numerous Russian Orthodox believers would be free to stay with Moscow.

Legally, the new group was recognised as the legitimate successor of the pre-war Estonian Apostolic Orthodox Church, a tiny part of which had survived in exile in Stockholm. As such, it was then able to lay claim to all the church buildings and property which had subsequently been nationalised under Stalin, including the Aleksander Nevsky cathedral.

"We feel totally insecure about our long-term right to stay here," said Pavel Maskov, a cleric at the Aleksander Nevsky cathedral. "And we feel ashamed for our forefathers who huilt this church."

In an attempt to assuage ethnic Russian fears, the Estonian branch of the church has promised that Russian congregations will be able to remain indefinitely in the buildings they use. But for Mr Maskov that is not enough: "That could change any time. What long-term guarantees do we have?"

Although on one level the dis-pute boils down to property ights, it has wider ramifications. Within the Orthodox church it has opened a rift between Moscow and Constantinople compared by some to the Byzantine church's hreak from Rome in 1054.

The dispute has further damaged Estonia's relations with Russia, which interpreted the move as another attempt by a

hostile regime to curtail the rights of the country's large ethnic Russian community.

In a letter to his Estonian counterpart, Lennart Meri, the Russian President, Boris Yeltsin, demanded "firm guarantees" that all Estonian parishes wishing to remain under the Moscow Patriarch would retain their property. Aleksy II, the Russian Patri-

arch, clearly worried that the Estonian example could be copied elsewhere in the former Soviet Union, has accused his counterpart in Constantinople, Bartholomew I, of breaking canonical law and has taken the hostile step of deleting all ref-erences to him when he performs the liturgy in Moscow.

For many Estonians, it seems like a storm in a teacup. But try is essentially Lutheran, not Orthodox.

Officials of the newly re-activated Estonian Apostolic Orthodox Church admit their congregation has dwindled from a pre-war total of 200,000 to 20,000 mainly elderly believers. Rivals in the Russian camp say there are even fewer Estonian believers, while claiming membership of their own church to be 70,000.

Not in dispute is that the Orthodox faith was introduced to Estonia by Russia in the 11th century and that, during the more than 200 years the country was under tsarist rule, there was a concerted attempt to convert the population. With the exception of the

brief inter-war period of Estonian independence, the country's Orthodox community has traditionally come under the Moscow Patriarch.

Between 1923 and 1940, how ever, it was under the jurisdiction of Constantinople.

Ethnic Russian believers say that, as they now form the majority within the Orthodox community, they should determine who should have jurisdiction of the church and who, therefore,

owns its property.

Activists on the Estonian side insist their action is not ed against Russian believers. but forms part of the wider process of erasing the unjust consequences of Soviet rule. They also say it is simply a matter of feeling more comfortable

under Constantinople. After all the years of politi-cal, social, economic and theological control from Moscow. Estonian Orthodox believers no longer felt comfortable within a Russian-controlled institution that they still believe to be riddled with KGB agents.

Balkan paper sues Swiss over spy claim

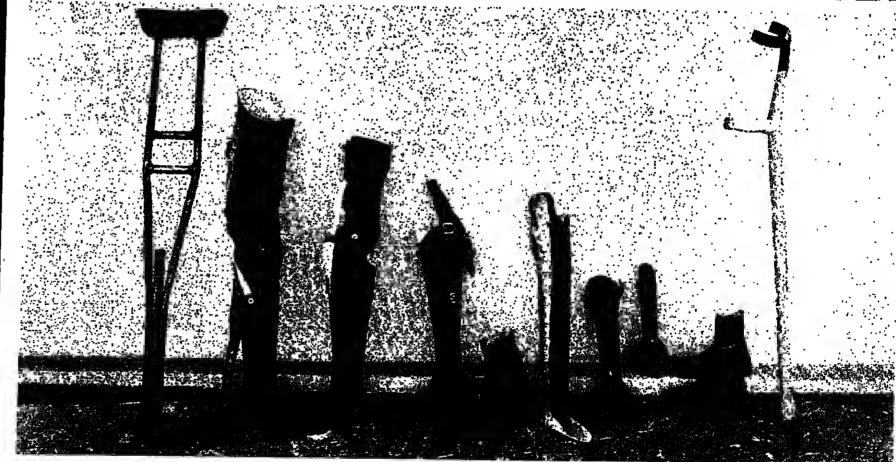
Bucharest (Reuter) — A sen-sational Romanian newspaper says it is suing the Swiss Foreign Ministry for calling one of its reporters a spy. "Evenimental Zilei sued the Swiss Foreign

Ministry" the paper screamed. Last week, Switzerland said it had withdrawn Jean-Pierre Vettovaglia, 49, its married ambassador to Bucharest, because of his relationship with a 21year-old Evenimentul Zilei News Day) political reporter, Floriana Jucan. Miss Jucan is an employee of the Romanian ing for the security service.

espionage service, and her re-lationship with the Swiss ambassador therefore posed a security risk to Switzerland," the Foreign Ministry said.

Evenimentul Zilei's editor. Ion Cristoiu, denied this, say-ing: "The Swiss statement damaged the newspaper". Court officials confirmed the suit, which seeks token damages of just one lei (a fraction of 1p), had been lodged. Ms Jucan says she had a relationship with the ambassador, but denies work-

FORGET LONDON, PARIS AND ROME. THIS IS WHAT THE WOMEN IN PHNOM PENH ARE WEARING.



Today the growth industry in Cambodia isn't fashion. It's prosthetics.

The country has around 20,000 amputees from a population of just 8.5 million. This means one amputee for every 236 people (compared to a figure of one for every 22,000 people in America).

So why is the situation in Cambodia so bad?

The country has suffered from civil unrest for many years. But the real villain of the piece isn't so much the war, as the weapons.

Cambodia is literally being crippled by anti-personnel landmines.

They are an incredibly cheap form of warfare (costing as little as 3 US dollars each). So to seize some tactical advantage; combatants think nothing of deploying scores of these weapons.

In a single 1km stretch of road in Cambodia 6,000 landmines were found.

They are also deployed with scant regard for the indigenous population. It is the men, women and children out

working the fields who are most likely to fall victim to these hidden killers. And in an agricultural society where

muscle power means survival, the loss of a limb can have repercussions far beyond the physical disability.

Take just one of Cambodia's victims. Chhea Veou was 19 when she lost a leg walking to harvest rice in a paddy.

"I cannot earn money because no one will employ me. I wanted to have children. But no-one will marry me because I don't have a leg."

And so she is forced to follow the dangerous paths into the rice fields at harvest

time. She shrugs. "What else can I do?" It's because of Chhea, and thousands

like her, that the Red Cross is urgently seeking your help. The carnage must end. For further information fill in the

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LANDMINES MUST BE STOPPED

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Italian right knocked off course

ANDREW GUMBEL Rome

The leaders of the National Alliance, Italy's reformed neo-fascist party, will be licking some painful wounds today when they meet to confront the harsh reality of last Sunday's election: not only that they lost, in coalition with Silvio Berlusconi's more moderate Forza Italia movement, but that their hopes of becoming the natural party of the mainstream right have suffered a major, if not fatal, blow.

Two years after the party came out of the wilderness and into government in Mr Berlus-coni's shortlived administra-

tion, it is finding the path to respectability far tougher than it ing on either a snap victory for anticipated. Its leader, Gianfranco Fini, has won a reputation as the willest politician in Italy, but he failed to translate that into the breakthrough he was looking for. The National Alliance scored 15 per cent - an improvement of just 1.5 points on 1994, when the party was still avowedly fascist, and well short of the 20 per cent that opinion polls were forecasting.

lt was Mr Fini who provoked Sunday's election, against the will of Mr Berlusconi and the rest of the centre-right, by pulling out of all-party talks on constitutional reform in Febthe centre-right, or at least a leap for his party to overtake Mr Berlusconi and transform the neo-fascists into an Italian version of Jacques Chirac's

Gaullist movement in France. He was wrong on both counts. Most disappointing for his modemisation drive was the fact that the diehard fascists in his movement did well - for example Teodoro Buontempo, from the southern suburbs of Rome while the so-called moderate candidates close to Mr Fini only scraped into parliament.

Mr Fini's number three, a for-

mer streetfighter called Maur-

izio Gasparri, lost in his Rome constituency and had to be fished back" in the part of the election decided by proportional representation.

The National Alliance leader was unrepentant for the electoral slaughter in his own ranks, saying he regretted nothing. They'll say it was my fault we lost because I wanted to go the polls. It will become a nationsport, but there are no grounds to suggest such a thing," he said. Instead Mr Fini turned his anger on his old rival in the neo-fascist movement, Pino Rauti, who refused to join him at last year's congress that broke with the blackshirt

past, and put up opposing can-didates in 40 constituencies. Mr Rauti's party split the right-wing vote in several mar-

ginal seats, including the historic centre of Rome. Criticism of Mr Fini has been particularly strong in the moderate, Catholic wing of the centre-right, where one unsuccessful candidate, the former labour minister Clemente Mastella, blamed his defeat in Benevento, near Naples, on a fraudulently discounted as Fini-inspired conspiracy. In similar vein one of Mr Berlusconi's

candidates, the lawyer Carlo

Taormina, said he lost his seat in

Discontent in the ranks of the centre-right is growing by the day, and it is probably only a matter of time before the first rifts emerge. Mr Berlusconi has insisted he will remain leader of the opposition, but few believe he has either the will or the authority to take the centre-right

into the next general election. Yesterday the former prime minister was suggesting thousands of his sides' votes were spoiled ballots. The accusation was ignored by the prime minister-designate, Romano Prodi who vowed to keep his govern-Rome because the National Alment in office for the full five liance faithful did not back him.

Historians · battle over Clovis, first French king

MARY DEJEVSKY

An event due to take place in five months, commemorating another event that may or not have taken place 1,500 years ago is causing a rumpus in academic, political and religious circles in France and reopening wounds thought to have been healed

long ago.
At the centre of all the fuss are plans to celebrate the 1,500th anniversary of the haptism of Clovis, a warlord from the Merovingian tribe who, in the fifth century, became the first king of France.

There is no doubt that all the stops are being pulled out. On 22 September, the Pope is to celebrate the commemorative Mass at Rheims cathedral where Clovis was baptised, and where the baptistry is being given an expensive facelift. A state committee, beaded by the Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, will oversee the celebrations: numerous conferences, television programmes and books are in the pipeline.

Which is where the problems

start, for it is not clear that there is an anniversary to celebrate. A television discussion in France last week had leading historians engaging in a verbal brawl, with raised voices and some very unacademic language, over the traditional date of the baptism: 13 April 496.

The only consensus seemed to be that if Clovis was baptised and if the baptism took place at Rheims, it was not in the year 496 and certainly not in September. The year, apparently, depends on the year from which Clovis's reign dates, which may be two, three or more years later than the date accepted by 17th-century historians. These same historians are also accused of changing the season of his baptism from Christmas to Easter on the grounds that Easter was more appropriate.

So why will France celebrate the event on 22 September 1996? The simplest explanation is that this is when the Pope's programme enabled him to come to France. But sticklers for the constitutional separation of church and state in France divine a more sinister reason: 22 September is Republic Day in France. They see the coincidence as a deliberate attempt to link the baptism of France's first king with the inauguration of the

French state. But it is the association of

sary - with the formation of the Clovis committee and the like. ly attendance of President Chirac at the Rheims Mass that has raised most hackles.

The separation of church and state, though enshrined in the constitution only in 1902, is taken for granted in France as one of the achievements of the 1789 Revolution. Since he came to office, however, Mr Chirac has caused eyebrows to be raised on this score.

The most notable blurring of the division between church and state was his decision to arrange a Requiem Mass at Notre Dame for his predecessor, François Mitterrand, a very public agnostic. But Mr Chirac is also the first post-war president to have made a state visit to the Vatican: he took a per-sonal interest in the election of the Cardinal Archbishop of Paris, Jean-Marie Lustiger, into the Academie Française, and has been criticised for referring to France as the "faithful daughter of the church".

As the highly sensitive debate over the association of the Clovis anniversary with a Papal Mass and the foundation of the French state progressed two further difficulties arose. The first was a public commemora-tion of the 13 April amiversary by a group of traditionalist Catholic clerics and the ex-

treme-right National Front. A ringing address from the National Front leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen, and a torch-lit procession in Paris in bonour of France's first Christian king, led to accusations that the extreme right was trying to undo 1789 and co-opt Clovis as a national symbol, rather as it has suc-cessfully co-opted Joan of Arc.
The second difficulty was the

discovery by an American archaeologist that the Rheims baptistry could not have been the site of Clovis's baptism. because it was not built at the time. Remains of a far more primitive baptistry were found beneath the crypt, but were in

no condition to be restored. Drowned by the hubbub of protest over aspects of the Clo-vis anniversary are murmurings about not letting the controversies get out of hand. Marking the baptism of Clovis, these voices argue, is just another way of saying that France is a very ancient nation and making the French feel a little happier. But with five months to go and historians going at it hammer and tongs, such sweet reason

Paraguay general menaces president

PHIL DAVISON Latin America Correspondent

For Paraguayans, it was like the old days: a general telling a civil-ian politician to step aside. And all of South America, still honeymooning with democracy after a history of military rulers, was following the drama out of more than curiosity. South America's youngest

democracy appeared under serious threat yesterday as Paraguay's army commander. Lino Oviedo, challenged the leadership of President Juan Carlos Wasmosy. Gen Oviedo, a populist with a strong following among the nation's poverty-stricken peasants, was barricaded with 4,000 men in a barracks on the edge of the capital. Asuncion. He was refusing to accept his forced retirement. ostensibly for meddling in polities, and in turn demanding the

President's resignation.

By last night the navy, air force and police had announced support for the President. Although there was no sign of mil-itary activity by either side, tension was high. Gen Oviedo has not so far Ihreatened a coup or any other armed action, but has called on Mr Wasmosy to step down in favour of the Senate speaker; Rafael Milciades

lead the 1989 coup which end-



General Oviedo: Challenge

ed the 34-year dictatorship of Alfred Stroessner, now in exile in Brazil, rejected approaches to the barracks by a string of en-voys, including the US ambassador, Robert Service.

The crisis has aroused concern in South America because many nations in the bemisphere are going through similar socio-economic uphcaval while generals loiter in the wings.

The showdown came after a year of speculation that the military might try to oust Mr Wasmosy, elected in 1993, 10 protect their power and finan-cial base, notably a suspected hand in drug trafficking. In the Stroessner era, secret airstrips were created throughout the country to move Bolivian coca The general, who helped leaf or paste to Colombia for ad the 1989 coup which end-

tween Mr Wasmosy and Gen Ovledo may simply be personal. The general was widely perceived to have helped Mr Wasmosy win the nomination as presidential candidate for the Colorado Party in 1993.

In turn, the new president promoted the general from commander of the First Army Corps to overall army commander. A 1993 statement by the general, saying the armed forces would "co-govern Paraguay for centuries and centuries", suggested to most Paraguayans that Mr Wasmosy would have to rule largely in the military's shadow.

Last month, after tens of thousands of peasants marched through Asuncion to protest against Mr Wasmosy's freemarket economic policies, Gen Oviedo left no doubt he hoped to run for president as Colorado
Party candidate in 1998.

It was after the general
sought to postpone a party convention due next weekend that

Mr Wasmosy ordered him on Monday to retire.

The general's supporters be-lieve the President had an ulterior motive. Just last week, pro-Oviedo legislators blocked the government's attempts to award two lucrative toll-bridge contracts to companies in which Mr Wasmosy is believed to



Mr Wasmosy is believed to have major financial interests.

Building hope: A man surveys damage in Nedjaricl, a former Sarajevo frontline suburb. The international community has pledged to find £800m for Bosnian reconstruction

Tyler Moore joins crusade against cruel 'urine farms'

American animal rights groups have stepped up efforts to close down so-called "urine farms" in North America where hapless pregnant mares are exploited duction of the drug Premarin by for the production of a bormone the Canadian pharmaceutical replacement drug for women.

Animal rights groups say about 80,000 pregnant mares are confined on short tethers in concrete stalls for months at a time on ranches in North Dakoia and Canada, to allow their urine to be collected for the production of the drug Premarin by giant. Wyeth-Ayerst.

The latest weapon in the campaign against the company is a video made by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, PETA, the best-known animal rights group in America, which highlights the cruel treatment of the mares. The video is presented by the actress, Mary Tyler Moore.

"I was appalled when I heard unofficially several years ago about what Premarin is," she said. Premarin - the name is derived from Pregnant Mares' Urine - is an oestrogen supplement for women in menopause seeking to fend off heart disease and osteoporosis, the thinning of the bones.

Among the complaints of ensure the proper treatment of PETA is that the horses suffer the animals. "It is in our best indiscomfort from rubber collection devices attached to their haunches and are deprived of water, to ensure that their urine is concentrated.

A spokeswoman for Wyeth-Ayrest insisted the company reg-ularly dispatches inspectors to women around the world take it as a bormone supplement.

terest for these animals to be treated well," Marily Rhudy

The company has been making Premarin for almost 50 years. An estimated 8 million women around the world take

state leaders with the anniver- looks unlikely to prevail.

Ins week in a independent

This week and every week, Section Two has a new look, with more pages, new features, a daily radio column and an expanded listings section providing Britain's most comprehensive daily guide to going out.

on Monday

A new regular section, Family Life, that deals with the interests and problems of parents and children. Julie Myerson's column also focuses on home life Plus: a new series - Do we need? - which challenges the icons of modem Britain

And, every, Monday unrivalled coverage of the expanding world of information technology in our Network pull-out section.

A 24-page tabloid section with all the action from the weekend's sporting action. Plus: the Monday interview in which a leading figure comes under the microscope an unbeatable results service, gossip, speculation and fact from behind the scenes and the best in sports photography.

on Tuesday

Health: how wearing a virtual reality helmet could help cure phobias and other psychological problems.
Plus: flaky nails are not simply a problem for the vain

but a sign of ill-health, so what can be done about them? Also on Tuesday, fashion, architecture, visual arts and media.

Bridget Jones's diary continues to chronicle the encounters and exquisite embarrassments in the life of Britain's most-read spinster. Plus: the midweek travel section, your money, finance and law. In our back pages, Martin Newell, Britain's leading rock poet, and Neil Kerber, one of the country's funniest cartoonists, present their views of the modern world.

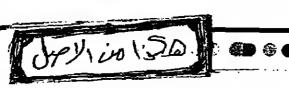
on Thursday

All our regular features, including Virginia Ironside's : Dilemmas, John Walsh's column, plus film, education

and graduate plus. In the back pages, William Hartston's history of the world in 101/2 Inches

24Seven - a new 20-page pull-out-and-keep entertainment and listings section. Including a complete day-by-day planner for the week ahead, plus

seven-day TV, radio and satellite listings, ticket offers and informed comment on the week's highlights. Plus: eight pages of pop and classical music









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China prepares to give Yeltsin warm welcome

TERESA POOLE Peking and TONY BARBER

In May 1989, as thousands of pro-democracy activists demon-strated in Tiananmen Square, Mikhail Gorbachev arrived in Peking for the first Sino-Soviet summit in three decades. For the Chinese, the visit proved the biggest diplomatic embarrassment in the bistory of the People's Republic, Mr Gorbachev was sneaked

in through the back door of the Great Hall of the People, and ate his banquet in a room with curtains drawn.

Today, President Boris Yelt-sio arrives in China on a visit that reflects increasingly friendly Sino-Russian relations at a time when both countries have bones to pick with the United States. The Chinese foreign ministry spokesman, Shen Guofang, said yesterday the visit would "mject oew vitality" into

the relationship. However, suspicions remain between the two and there is no chance Mr Yeltsin's trip will result in the creation of a formal

Sino-Russian security axis. The Russian President is visiting Peking and Shanghai only a week after President Bill Clin-



Yeltsin: Shares concerns with

ton weot to Japan to reaffirm the US-Japanese security relationship and promise that US troops would stay in Asia as long as they were wanted.

Mr Yeltsin's visit will enable Russia and China to show that they, too, can cultivate close ties, while also illustrating limits to the Sino-Russian relationship.

For the Chinese, one welcome aspect of Mr Yeltsin's trip is that, unlike western countries, Russia feels no obligation to raise issues such as Taiwan and Tibet. "One of the major reasons for the good atmosphere is the 1,000 per ceot non-inter-

Nor is Mr Yeltsin's presidential election light against the Russian Communist leader, Gen-nady Zyuganov, likely to affect talks. "The Chinese do not like to see communists lose power, but they separate ideological preferences from state politics and inter-state relations," the diplomat said.

More than 25 years of confrontation between Moscow and Peking gave way to a thaw in the late 1980s, and relations have steadily flourished since despite China's nominal adherence to a Communist doctrioe abandoned by Russia.

The good atmosphere will be in evidence in Shanghai on Friday when Mr Yeltsin, President Jiang Zemin of China and the leaders of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan sign a treaty on confidence-huilding measures along their borders.

The sense of Sino-Russian solidarity is enhanced by the fact that both Russia and China have entered a difficult period in their relations with the US. Russia's vehement opposition to Nato's expansion into eastern Europe is matched by Chinese resentment at US policies on

However, while exploiting



Kings of the castle: Russian border guards stand on a fort blown up last year to relieve tensions un the Chinese border. Local protests against plans to move the border are one of the few difficult items on the agenda for Borls Yeltsin's visit to Peking

the propaganda potential of Mr Yeltsin's visit, China also accepts there are limits to playing a "Russian card" against Washington. The Russian diplomat, commenting oo his meetings with Chinese officials, said: "There are no facts that make

me think China is using us in a

and China. Earlier this month, officials in Russia's Primorsky region on the Pacific coast protested loudly at the way in which a disputed part of the Russian-Chinese border was

being demarcated. Major-General Valery Rozov,

Still, not everything is sweet-ness and light between Russia marking out part of the frontier, two Korean states and itself, and even resigned in anger over what he called the "transfer of

Russian territory to China". Mr Yeltsin may also not get ferences over a complete ban on much joy if he tries to persuade nuclear weapons tests. China Chinese leaders to let Russia has refrained from supporting join talks on tensions in the Koa worldwide ban but at a sumrean peninsula. The US wants

offered at least partial endorsement of a global test ban. there are few signs China is keen to see Russian involvement. However, the overall politi-There also appear to be dif-

cal climate of Mr Yeltsin's visit should be warm. A "hot line" telephone link will be set up

What chance for a country plundered by its peace-keepers?

"Every car or moveable object gone" has long been the Liberian epithet for the West African

peace-keeping force, Ecomog. First deployed in August 1990 to restore order in the capital. Ecomog has been necused both of taking sides and of taking part in looting. Many observers feel the Nigerian domination of the force has been the decisive factor in its commit its own troops, and enfailure to carry out its mission. As one Liberian said: "Would you ask the Nigerian military to West African states, to find a remount a peace-keeping operation in your country?

When the civil war reached Monrovia in July 1990, the reaction of most foreigners was to get out as quickly as possible. The United States, in spite of its cultural and commercial ties with Liberia, was reluctant to couraged the efforts of Ecowas, the economic grouping of gional solution. The US also

itary intelligence, and funding for Ecomog. The Organisation of African Unity and the UN bave praised the regional effort, and the force has been seen as a model for African attempts to resolve its own problems.

But Ecomog was compromised from the start by Nigerian leadership. Nigeria, which has provided all the generals and up to two-thirds of the to Charles Taylor, leader of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL). Fearing that Ivory Coast's support for the NPFL was an attempt to further francophone interests in the region, Nigeria saw control of Ecomog as a chance to impose

its own agenda in Liberia. . Ecomog began to operate covertly against the NPEL in 1991, through its assistance to provided political support, mil- troops, has always been opposed—the rival Ulimo movement in

western Liberia. Its neutral status was finally abandoned in November 1992, when it openly allied itself with the new factions in an all-out attack on the NPFL. All the new factions -Ulimo, AFL and LPC - have been associated with Ecomog, and all have been responsible for appalling atrocities. Charles

Taylor has consistently refused

process, "It is not possible for us to disarm to anyone who is shooting at us," he said.

In the third of our series, Philippa Atkinson hears a grim tale

Evidence of the dubious business activities of Ecomog was exposed in 1995, when the US State Department's annual human rights report accused the force of "systematic looting", even of "entire buildings for scrap to be sold abroad". An into disarm to Ecomog, calling for a small UN force to monitor the one reason Ecomog sealed the

along the coast. According to an EU official in Monrovia, the commercial interests of the Nigerians and their lack of respect for humanitarian operations have created "such a generalised distrust of Ecomog

Liberian borders in late-1992

was to gain control of the lu-

crative arms and drugs trade

that the war will never be over until they leave".

July 1993 recognised some of the ambiguities of the force, but failed to address them. A small UN observer force was assembled in late-1993, but has so far played no role in the conflict. Without such controls, Nigerian interests in Liberia continue to provide a higrative source of income for soldiers on the ground and the junta back home.

Peace-keeping is a difficult and dangerous job at the best of times. But if the peacekeepers themselves cannot maintain an integrity and neu-

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David Shipman

while sensitive to criticism and

watchful of his reputation. His

exhaustive research methods

and the lack of any regular

means of income meant that he

was never rich; but he was al-

ways sartorially elegant, and in his last public outing, attending

the publication party for Kevin

Brownlow's biography of David

Lean (the appearance of which

was due much to Shipman's in-

fluence), was dressed in a three-

piece Savile Row suit and

For over a quarter of a century David Shipman was the most influential writer on film in the

He was never film critic for a national newspaper, and was generally not seen by the cinema establishmen) as a heavyweight; but in the 10 books he wrote, most notably the three volumes that made up The Great Movie Stars and the twovolume The Story of Cinema, he exerted an influence no other writer on film has matched. More widely read than Pauline Kael, more authoritative and more knowledgeahle than Leslie Halliwell, he always seemed in touch with the audiences for whom he wrote, and they appreciated his strongly held if iconoclastic views and the fact he was always his own man. Elia Kazan commented accurately of him, "Shipman writes the most comptete, the most enthusiastic and the most entertaining accounts of the films he deals with of anyone I

also wrote a film and video guide entirely from his own Shipman had no family or experience, an extraordinary formal connection with the film achievement when in 1995 world. After a hrief spell at alone some 419 new films were Merton College, Oxford, he entered publishing as a sales rep m 1955, and for the next screened; and all his reference books he vigorously updated. A third volume of The Great 11 years worked for a number of leading publishers, includ-Movie Stars, The Independent Years, appeared in 1991, by which time he was in much ing Gollancz, Methuen and Bantam-Corgi, mainly on the demand as lecturer, journalist Conument looking after Euroand film consultant. He was a pean sales. "In the end one hoel room is very like another." frequent adviser to the Nahe wrote, and in 1965 returned tional Film Theatre, and in to Britain to work for Thames 1986 began writing obituaries for the Independent, becomand Hudson. In 1968 he began his most ing one of its most regular

popular book, the first volume of The Great Movie Stars, The Golden Years, and it became a best-seller on its publication in 1970. Two years later a second volume appeared, The International Years, drawing on the interest in non-Hollywood film that Shipman had developed during his time living in Paris. That same year he was commissioned by Phaidon to write a companion volume to Ernst Gombrich's The Story of Art. "1 thought it would take me two years and it took 11, because 1 needed to see the 5,000 films discussed in it," he later wrote, determined that he would never write about a film unless he had himself seen it.

The massive two-volume work - some half a million words - was eventually pub-

lished by Hodder & Stoughton a shy man, exceptionally kind with a preface by lugmar Bergman. It was the hook of which he (and his publisher) was most proud, and was a beguiling mixture of the authoritative and the idiosyncratic, Of Alfred Hitchcock, for instance, Shipman wrote: "I find almost all of his later films lumbering, literal and not nearly as clever in evoking thrills as they think they are." He described as "unequivocally the greatest film ever made" the Japanese threeparter The Human Condition (1959-61), directed by Masaki Kohayashi - while admitting that it was also the longest film

Shipman said of himself that

he was the only British film his-

torian to make a living solely

from books, and in the 1980s

several shorter books helped

him through what, financially,

were difficult years: a short hi-ography of Marlon Brando and studies of science fiction and sex

and eroticism in the cinema. He

In 1992 Shipman's biography

Judy Garland appeared, to

widespread acclaim. It showed

he could write as well at length

on a single individual as he could in hrief in his works of

reference. At the time of his

death he was completing what

promised to be an ambitious

hiography of Fred Astaire, and

he was full of other plans, in-

cluding a memoir of the screen-

writer and director Joseph

Rosemary were just two of a number of Hollywood celebri-

ties who became close friends.

Sheila Grahame was another

at Shipman's stylish flat in Cal-

who would be a regular visitor

Joe Mankiewicz and his wife

Mankiewicz.

ever shown.

In 1964 he met the art director and editor Felix Brenner,

companying trilby.



Photograph: David Facey

and together in Chelsea and at their cottage retreat in Hamp-shire they made a formidable

Richard Cohen

The world of film has lost not only one of its foremost champions and historians, but a man whose genial presence, warmth. generosity and boundless enthusiasm will be sorely missed by all who knew him, writes Tom A handsome man with, in re-

cent years, a flock of white hair, David was always ready with a beaming smile and effusive greeting, his eyes twin-kling as he disclosed some new piece of movie information or gossip. A man of strong opinions, he nonetheless showed genuine concern if one disagreed with his views, and would listen carefully to one's reasons. Unlike many historians, he refused to write critically of any film he had not personally seen, so, although his sometimes controversial judgements could low Street, in the heart of raise hackles, at least they were Chelsea. Shipman himself was his own opinions and not re-

gurgitated from the writings of

He started keeping notes on the films he had seen when he was in his early teens and carried on throughout his life, compiling an enormous library of personal synopses and critical comments with which, like everything else, he was extremely generous. One had only to mention an obscure German silent recorded from satellite television and next morning's post would bring a copy of his detailed notes to aid one's viewing.

His The Good Film and Video Guide (first published in 1984) is notable for its inclusion of more detail and more foreign films than similar publications, and he was particularly proud of his giant opus the twovolume The Story of Cinema. It is a monumental achievement to be sure, distinguished by the diligent research and meticulous documentation that marks all his work, but his most important contribution to film literature may well be his wonderful trilogy The Great Movie Stars.

Unlike previous such refer-ence books, which included a hrief biography, then a (usually incomplete) list of credits, his pioneered the chronological career-filmography, contextu-alising the films so that one could chart the trajectory of each star, the changes in course and their fluctuating fortunes. It was an original idea, tri-umphantly followed through, and won instant acclaim from critics and public ("The best, and best-written, aide-mémoire on the great stars," wrote Clive Hirschhorn). Consistent sellers, the three books are permanently in print, and there can be few film enthusiasts who do not have them on their shelves.

All of David Shipman's work was pervaded by his unquenchable love of cinema. When I last saw him, four days before his death, he was as enthusiastic as ever at the prospect of fresh films, both old and new, to be viewed over the coming

In the nine-and-a-half-year history of the Independent, David Shipman contributed more than 200 obituaries to the newspaper, most of them written on the run, writes James Fergusson. He contributed his first in our second week and his last last Hampshire 22 April 1996.

week. He was encyclopaedic enthusiastic, fiercely loyal.

He could also be quite difficult. Sometimes his fastidiousness and high standards dictated a de-haut-en-bas style which might sit well on the experienced film critic he was bul would not look so judicious in the sober light of the posthumous morning. As the editor of his obituaries one had to wrestle with him to persuade him of this, to recast and to rethink, to steer him towards a candour the right side of kindness. He endured such bouts stoically, and bounced straight back. His enthusiasm was real and

invigorating. Shipman embraced the ideals of the new newspaper - and par-ticularly the liberations of its obituaries column - from the start. A former Daily Telegraph obituaries editor, in introducing an amusing anthology of that newspaper's obituaries, bas boasted that it was the Telegraph which initiated the innovations to the ohituary form which have revived it, across all newspapers, for the Nineties. Shipman would snort at this, properly, for it was the facility the Independent afforded for signed pieces, written accountably and with a personal authority by such contributors as David Shipman, in the style of an essay or a profile, and bold-ly illustrated (in Shipman's case with vivid Hollywood studio portraits and film-stills), which drew a new and young readership to the newspaper obituary. The Independent sought to demystify obituaries, to make them not so much a hilarious private joke as honest, catholic, authoritative, accessible.

David Shipman's last obitu ary, of Tomás Gutiérrez Alea, the Cuban director, producer and screenwriter, appeared last Thursday. His first, published on 16 October 1986, was of Keenan Wynn, "one of the last great character men, ... with a licence to steal scenes from Garland or Gable, putting them down, putting up with them, moustache atwitch to whack his lines across before the camera returned to making them look good". The words could almost describe Shipman himself.

David Herbert Shipman, film historian; born Norwich 4 No vember 1932: died Overton.



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- 大蒜 鞋

Sir Hubert Opperman

Hubert Opperman was an Australian legend who rode to fame in an era when cycling was sport that captured the imagination of nations. "Oppy", as he became fondly known to his countrymen, achieved the same hero status in cycling as Dou Bradman in cricket and Dawn Fraser in swimming.
When he died at 91, fitting-

ly while pedalling his exercise bicycle at home near Melbourne, some of the 100 world cycling during a 20-year career from the 1920s still stood. His life was the stuff that films are made of, and a script written with his collaboration is already doing the rounds of Australian producers.

Opperman's was a classic story of a modest country boy striking it hig on the world stage by persevering and overcoming the odds. He was born in a small northern lown in the state of Victoria and grew up in Melbourne, where his father managed a hutcher's shop. At 15, he went to work as a messenger and news-spotter for the Herald, then one of Melbourne's most prosperous newspapers, and later as a telegram delivery hoy. Both jobs introduced him to hicycles, and soon he started winning racing

competitions in his home city. The real turning-point, as he later acknowledged, came when he met Bruce Small, a former Salvation Army officer who had opened a cycle accessories shop in the Melbourne suburb of Malvern. The entrepreneurial Small began making his own hicycles and selling them under the name Malvern Star, a hrand which eventually dominated the Australian

market. The pair struck a bargain. Together they would take on the world: the promising Opperman would ride only Malvern Star hikes and Small would manage his career. Accompanied by

Small and Mavys, the childhood sweetheart he married in 1928, Opperman left for Europe, the scene of his most dazzling series of successes. The most dramatic of these

was the 1928 Bol d'Or, a race designed to see who could ride the greatest distance non-stop for 24 hours around the Montrouge Vélodrome near Paris. This is where the Opperman legend really began. He took an early race lead, but the chain on Malvern Star snapped after about an hour. Small was quickly to hand with a replacement hike, but the chain soon broke on that one too. The Australian duo ctaimed later that they were victims of sabotage. With the rest of the field surging ahead, the frustrated Opperman was obliged to jump on his

French interpreter's ill-suited bike to stay in the race. By the time Small had fixed the first Malvern Star, the race leaders were almost 20 laps in front. Back on his home-town cycle, Opperman pulled off an astonishing feat by winning the race. The French cheered him, and later voted him the most popular athlete of the year in a newspaper poll. From there Opperman went

on to win the gruelling 1931 Paris-Brest-Paris event, then the world's longest non-stop race at 1.160km. Three years later, he cut four hours, 21 minutes from the record in the race from Land's End to John o' Groats. After more headlinemaking victories in Europe, he returned to Australia, where he was carried shoulder-high through Melbourne streets. He cut five days from the record

of cycling 3,000km across Australia from Fremantle in Western Australia 10 Sydney. Opperman joined the Australian air force during the Second World War. By then, his sporting days had already come to an end. In their later years, both Bruce Small and Opperman entered politics and were knighted. Small moved to the Gold Coast, in Queensland. where he became a property developer and, later, mayor by campaigning under the slogan "Think Big, Vote Small". A bronze statue of Small still stands in a plaza among a forest of high-rise buildings

fronting the ocean. Opperman's second career was rather less ostenlatious in its own way, it was just as significant as Opperman's earlier achievements. The conservative Liberal Party recruited Opperman for a federal constituency in Victoria, which he won at the 1949 election and held for almost 20 years. As Minister for Immigration in the early Sixties, Opperman is credited with taking the first steps to dismantle the White Australia policy, under which Australia discriminated against non-whites as potential immigrants. He did so by allowing a Chinese resident to apply for citizenship after five years, the period which then applied to Europeans. Non-Europeans at that time had to wait 15 years. Opperman's changes were eventually applied universally.

The Australian government has offcred a state funeral for Opperman. Dunc Gray, one of "Oppy's" last surviving cycling contemporaries, probably spoke for the rest of Australia when he said: "He was a scholar and a gentleman and a damn good sport. He was a politician for a while, but we won't hold that against him."

Robert Milliken

Huben Ferdinand Opperman, cyclist and politician: born Rochester, Victoria 29 May 1904; OBE 1952; Kt 1968; married 1928 Mayys Craig (one son, and one daughter deceased); died Melbourne 18 April 1996.

Cecilia Gillie

some, lively young woman who played a major role in founding the BBC's wartime French Service and later became its longterm Paris Representative.

In the gloomy summer days of 1940 following the collapse of France she devised the idea of getting a sophisticated group of Frenchmen to discuss the events of the day in a lighthearted and witty manner, enlivened by the use of songs and slogans. Derision became one the most incisive and effective weapons employed by the programme Les Français parlent aux Français. Criticism of those who had managed to escape to Britain was deflected by the slogan "I would prefer to see the English in their country than the

Germans in ours". After graduating from Newnham College, Cambridge, she joined the BBC in 1933 as an assistant to Richard Marriott. the Foreign Liaison Officer. The function of this small section was to look after the needs of foreign broadcasters who used BBC facilities to transmit material to their home countries. In 1937 Reeves was particularly concerned with the arrangements for the new European Director of the Columhia Broadcasting System in New York, Edward R. Murrow. His main task then was to arrange educational talks by other people. She and Murrow

flew at short notice to Vienna to cover the Anschluss in what was his first personal reporting assignment, Cecilia Reeves was called to Broadcasting House very early one Sunday morning to arrange the studio facilities for Murrow's uncensored London broadcast completing the story of Hitler's takeover. Murrow came in at 3am directly from the plane, looking shattered, she thought, and terribly fatigued. She sat riveted throughout his

hroadcast with its grim account of the sound of smashing glass as Jewish shops were raided and the haunted look on the faces of those long lines of people outside hanks and travel agencies desperately trying to get away. When it was finished Murrow asked Reeves whether she was very tired, for he longed to have the chance to talk. They walked back to Murrow's flat, where his wife was sleeping quietly. He poured drinks and the traumas of the past week came tumbling out as she listened. Later she recalled, "I still have a picture of the hor-

ror, and of the agony with which he told it." Early in the war Marriott and Reeves worked in the BBC's Paris office, but in the dark days of June and July 1940 she had become the Senior Talks Assistant in the French Service. She was trying to put together a team of French broadcasters

Births.

Marriages

& Deaths

TRAVERS: Pamela Lyndon Travers OBE. On 23 April 1996, peacefully

at home. Funeral private. Family flowers only. Donations if wished to The Cherry Tree Foundation c/o Goodman Detrick, 90 Fetter Lanc. London EC4A IEQ. A memorial structure.

vice will be arranged at a later date.

For Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES &

BBC's service made necessary by the Nazis' control of all broadcasting in France. She consulted Peter Pooley,

the creator of Radio Newsreel, who told her that Michel Saint-Denis, the well-known stage director, was in England awaiting repatriation to France. He had been demohilised from the French army and had been offered a British commission, but Cecilia Reeves persuaded him that he could make a more useful contribution through hroadcasting. Known thereafter as Jacques Duchesne, he became the leader of a hrilliant team.

Reeves had heen much

impressed by the way CBS mounted three-way discussions between its correspondents in Berlin, Paris and London. She thought the discussion format would suit the French, who were naturally argumentative. And so, in addition to Les Français parlent aux Français, the group Les Trois Amis was formed. Duchesne's companions were Pierre Maillaud - who had been working as a journalist in London and was passed on to Reeves by the Ministry of Information; he hroadcast under the name of Pierre Bourdan and Jean Oberlé, a painter, who was in London as a war

correspondent. Raymond Mortimer, who was responsible for French Broadcasting at the Ministry of Information, wrote subse-

sprang from a happy collaboration between Frenchmen of very various professions and opinions, is likely to rank as a classic of propaganda in the best sense of the word."

The French News Editor at

the BBC in 1940 was Darsie Gillie, a distinguished foreign correspondent who had been working for the Morning Post in Warsaw at the outhreak of war, and then transferred to Paris as the correspondent of the Manchester Guardian. He had a profound knowledge of Europe and was a man of deep culture and a classical scholar. He left Bush House in 1944 to return to Paris for the Manchester Guardian and in 1955 married Cecilia Reeves, at that time also working in Paris as the



Photograph: BBC

with a number of different titles. sometimes as the radio assistant to senior members of the BBC Television Service such as Rohin Scott and Noble Wilson. She and Darsie Gillie were held in very high esteem by the French. and were staunch Francophiles.

They retired to St Mirabeau in Vaucluse, where Cecilia compiled a detailed history of the BBC's French Service in wartime. Alas, it failed to find a publisher hut it is kept as a valuable source for researchers at the BBC's Written Archives Centre at Cavershan. Darsie Gillie died in 1972. He had befriended and helped to educate a young Pole, Stanislaw (Stash) Pruszynski, the son of a writer he had met in London during the war. When Cecilia Gillie's health began to fail Pruszynski and his wife kindly invited her to live in their house in Warsaw. She suffered a serious stroke on 20 April 1986 which incapacitated her and made communication very difficult. She died 10 years to the day later.

Leonard Miall Cecilia Grace Hunt Reeves, broadcasting executive: born Sheppey, Kent 18 August 1907; joined Foreign Liaison Department, BBC 1933, Paris Office 1939, Senior Talks Assistant, French Service 1940, Paris Representative 1947-67; married

1955 Darsie Gillie (died 1972);

press appeared, 1900; the Republican

insurrection in Ireland known as the

died Warsow 20 April 1996.

Dinners

Foreign and Commonwealth Office Mr Malcolm Rifkind QC, Secretary of State for Foreign and Common-wealth Affairs, held a dinner yesterday evening at 1 Carlton Gardens, London SW1, in honour of Mr Punalmaa Ochirbat, the President of Mongotia.

Royal Society of St George Mr Nigel L. Blood, accompanied by Miss Ican Leonard, received the guests at the annual St George's Day Banquet held yesterday by the city of London Branch of the Royal Society of St George in Guildhall, Lon-

Coningsby Clab

Mr William Hague MP. Secretary of ingshy Club, presided.

Foundation for Science

Lord Butterworth was in the chair at a Foundation for Science and Techheld yesterday evening at the Royal Society. London SW1. Mr John Spensley, Mr Victor Lucas and Dr R.G. Evans spoke on "Whence the Skilled Technician?"

Knights of the Garter The Queen has appointed the Duke of Devonshire and Mr Timothy Col-man to be Knights Companion of the Most Noble Order of the Garter.

The following awards have been an-

School, Guildford:

Academic Scholarships: King's Scholarships:
Anthony Lewis (Cranmore), Rhodri A. Lewis
(Commore), Scholarships: Andrew P. Bell
1 Worplesdon: Primary): Christopher M.S.
Dawes (Danes Hill); Johannes M. de Jong
(Cranmore): Benjamin H. Harvey (Lanesborough): Alee L. Johasson (Lanesborough):
Taby W. O'Hanison (Holy Trinity): Gregory H.
Cherton (Lanesborough): Jonathan P. Robin
(Hastemere): Homorary Scholarships: Alexander C. Mek. Butterworth (Cranmore): Molsan

J. Drahu (Cranmore): Michael C. Parker
(Hastemere): Mark T. Young (Wnodeoue
House).

[Hastemere]: Mark I: Toung I wanned House]. Musle Scholarshiper Simon P. Barr (Mitheume Lodge): Alexander J. Kumar (Cranmore): Thomas O. Linton (Lanesborough): James R. Lwitet (Cranmore): Julian Stortt (Lanesborough): Robert G. Wilson (RGS).

BIRTHS

HELM: On 19 April 1996, to Emma Tucker and Toby Helm, a sou RICE: On 18 April 10 Sophie and Dermot, a son. Matthew Edward.

a brother for Isabelle and Helen.

became close friends.

DEATHS

Funeral Friday 26 April, service as West Grove Unitarian Church, Cardiff, at 3.15pm. Cremation at Thornhill Crematorium at 4.30pm. Flowers may be sent to John Davies & Sons, Funeral Directors, Park

DEATHS, please telephone 0171-293 2011 or fax 0171-293 2010. Charges at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). Cuantry Museum, opens the cast from houses at the Museum, Dridley; virits Solo House, Handsoworth, Birmingham, virit the Jewellery Quarter Discovery Centre, Hookley, Mirmogham, and visits the Castle Vale Housing Action Inst., Birmingham. The Duchess of Glomester attends the Lord Mayor's Furbing Show, In aid of \$1 John Ambulance, at Mansion House. London EC. ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

RUTAL EINGAGEMENTS
The Duke of Edinburgh attends the Thomes
Salmon Thisi's Lunch of Fedindongers' Hall, Losdon EC4. The Princers Royal visits the Young
Men's Christian Association National Centre to
name the new Sports and Activities Hall at
Fairthorne Manor, Southangston, Hampathier as
President of the Patrons, Crutic Contern, Isomeberportserionth Safer Cities Project on board HMS.
Rismor (1960), HM Naval Base, Port mouth,
Hampathier, and strends a Charity Fadnous Show
for the Zoukopical Society and London at London
Zoo, London NW1, The Princers Margaret visties Kanwik Church of England Indans School, West
Mallands, The Duke of Gloutester, Patron, Black Changing of the Guard

Birthdays Mr Ralph Brown, sculptor, 68; Field

Marshal Lord Carver, former Chief of the Defence Staff, 81; Mr John Ernest Collins, former chairman. Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance Group, 73: Lord Coulsfield, Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, 62; Sir Gordon Cox, chemist, 90: Sir Peter Cresswell, High Court judge, 52; Sir Clement Freud, writer and former MP, 72; Dame Helen Gardiner. former chief clerk, Private Secretary's Office, Buckingham Palace, 95: Mr Fred Heddell, chief executive, Mencap, 51; Rear-Admiral Sir Joseph Henley, 87; Mr Richard Jarman, managing director, Sconish Opera, 47; Mr Andrew MacKinlay MP, 47; Miss Shirley Maclaine, actress, 62; Mr James Paice MP, 47; Sir Hugh Park. former High Court judge, 86; Mr Stu-art Pearce, footballer, 34; Mr Joseph Rank, president, Ranks Hovis Mc-Dougall, 78; Miss Bridget Riley, painter, 65; Mr Martin Seymour-Smith, writer, 68; Miss Barbro Streisand, actress and singer, 54: Mr Larry Tindale, former chairman, North British Canadian Investment Trust, 75: Lt-Col Smart Townend fnunder, Hill House School. 87; Mr Frank Wheeler, ambassador to Chile.

58; Mr John Williams, guitarist, 55;

Miss Paula Yates, television presen-

Anniversaries

Births: William the Silent, Prince of Orange, 1533; Edmand Cartwright, inventor of the power loom, 1743; Anthony Trollope, author and inventor of the pillar box, 18t5; Jules Egghard (Connt Hardegg), pianist. 1834; Marcus Andrew Histop Clarke, author, 1846; Philippe Petain, soldier and French teader, 1856; Arthur Christopher Benson, scholar and author, 1862: Sir Richard Stafford Cripps, lawyer, diplomat and statesman, 1889; Benjamin Whorf, linguist and anthropologist, 1897; William Joyce ("Lord Haw-Haw"), collaborator with the Nazis, 1906. Deaths: Daniet Defoe, author, 1731; Louisa Stuart Costello, artist and poet, 1870; Maria Faglioni, ballerina, 1884: Justin M'Carthy, politician, histori-an and novelist, 1912; George de Forest Brush, painter, 1941; Willa Cather, novelist, 1947; Gerhard Domagk, bacteriologist, 1964; Bill (William John) Edrich, cricketer, 1986: The Duchess of Windsor (Wallis Warfield). 1986. On this day: Mary. Queen of Scots, aged 16, married the Dauphin of France, 1558; the words and music of the "Marseillaise" were

composed by Rouget de Lisle, 1792; Tate Gallery: Martyn Chalk, "Buildthe Library of Congress was estab-lished in Washington, 1800; the Gariog Utopia: Talin, Lissitzky and othrick Theatre, London, opened, 1889. Joshua Slocum set sail from Boston. Luncheons Massachusetts, on the first solo round-the-world voyage, 1895; Spain declared war on the United States. Combustion Engineering Associa 1898: the first issue of the Daily Ex-

Easter Rising occurred on Easter Monday, 19th; in the German general election. Nazis won many seats **British Red Cross** in large cities, 1932; the first Bandoeng Conference ended, 1955; the first performance of the musical show Man of La Mancha was presented, London, 1968; the Gambia was proclaimed a republic, 1970. Today is the Feast Day of St Egbert, St Fidelis of Sigmaringen, St tyes or tvo. St Mary Euphrasia Pelletier, St Melmanaging director, NPS Healthcare

Lectures

National Gallery: David Bomford and John Leighton, "Curators and Cooservators (iv): Degas, Hélène Rouart in her Father's Snidy", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Sarah Bowles, "The Social History of Fur-

litus of Canterbury and St William

Lord Ezra, President, Combustion Engineering Association, presided at a luncheon held yesterday at Over-Seas House, London SWJ. Dr Mary Archer was the guest speaker.

Viscount Tonypandy and Miss Angela Rippon were the guests of honour at a British Red Cross Corporate Lunch sponsored by NPS Healthcare held yesterday at the Lanesborough Hotel, London SWt. Mr John F. Gray. Director of Public Alfairs, British Red Cross, and Mr Michael Bearcroft,

Canada-UK Chamber of Commerce The Lord Mayor of London, Mr John Chalstrey, accompanied by the Sher-iff, Mr Kenneth Ayers, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Canada-UK Chamber of Commerce held yesterday evening at Stationers' Hall, London EC4, Mr Timothy Baltle. President of the Chamber, presided.

Affairs, also spoke.

don EC2.

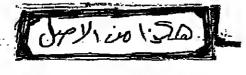
State for Wales, was the guest of honour at a dinner held yesterday evening by the Coningsby Club at the Carlton Club, London W1. Mr Jeremy Hunt, Chairman of the Con-

and Technology

nology lecture and dinner discussion

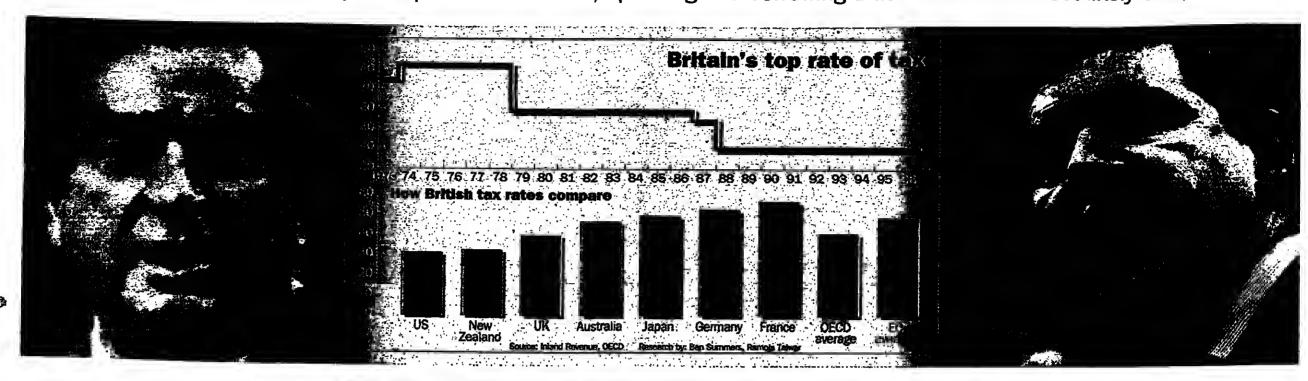
Schools .

Royal Grammar School, Guildford nounced by the Royal Grammar School, Guildford:



How much will Labour tax you?

Gordon Brown is playing it close to his chest when it comes to his plans should he become Chancellor. Hamish McRae weighs up the options on taxation, spending and borrowing that he would be most likely to consider



S tand hack from the squahhles hetween the leadership and the rank and file over the detail of Labour's economic platform. Stand hack, too, from the inevitable ambiguities that remain over tax and spending policies, for as Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, made clear yesterday, clarification will presumably not come until the campaign itself.

To understand what a Labour government might do to your taxes, start instead with three seismic shifts in economics since Labour last held power in 1979.

First, the dominance of the market system. Then, as the World Bank recently noted, about 40 per cent of the world's population lived in a functioning market economy; now the proportion is something like 90 per cent.

Ipperman

Second, the transformation in global inflation. There were two peaks of inflation, in 1975-76 and in the early Eighties. Before those, the long-term trend was up: since then it has been down. Government no longer bas a choice about how much inflation might be acceptable; any rise is

immediately "punished" by a rise in longterm interest rates. Third, within the developed world there is increasing scepticism about the effectiveness of public spending as a means of achieving social aims. In most countries, this bas yet to be reflected in a decline in

public spending as a proportion of GDP, but in some (the Netherlands, Belgium, Ireland, New Zealand as well as the UK) there is a clear downward trend. In the UK, this trend was started by the last Labour chancellor, Denis Healey. In this context, Labour is clearest about its attitude towards public spending and borrowing. Gordon Brown has committed a future Labour government to two rules. The

that the ratio of public deht will be stable and kept "at a prudent and sensible level". The first rule is open to wide interpre-tation, for "investment" is a word frequently used to cover what is in any accounting

first, which he calls the "golden rule" of bor-

rowing, is that it will only borrow for invest-

ment, not for consumption. The second is

sense current spending, for example, investment in education. But the second, if adhered to, should contain any rise in borrowing to the rate

of growth of the economy as a whole; this would suggest a hudget deficit aver-aging about 2.5 per cent of GDP, well within the Maastricht ceiling of 3 per cent

the life of the present Parliament. Yet this fiscal prudence does not tell us much about the size of the public sector under Labour. For that we need to look at taxation. The most important institutional change would be the introduction of a Green Budget, for discussion of tax changes,

several months before the Budget itself. Mr Brown has suggested an income tax system that will reduce the tax hurden on the low-paid and middle-income earners but will almost certainly increase tax rates of the higher earners. His suggestion (as a long-term objective) is that income tax will start at a lower band of 10 per cent, instead of the present 20 per cent, and move upwards in steps. The present top rate of 40 per cent will presumably be increased, but what that rate will be and the level of income at which it starts have

Last week's spat over Clare Sbort's remarks that someone at her meome level should be prepared to pay more tax suggests that any higher rate over and above the 40 per cent band would not start until an income of perhaps £40,000. But even that level would catch a lot of people. John Prescott has admitted that many would pay more tax under Labour.

not been disclosed.

Some further clarification here comes from Tony Blair. He has made two important statements on tax. One is that Britain's top tax rates will be internationally competitive. The other is that he recognises that

petition, held at the Barhican in

London tomorrow, as an assistant

conductor. It is a prestigious, hien-

nial event - its patron is the Prince

of Wales, and the jury boasts many

distinguished musical names, includ-

ing the conductor, Daniele Gatti.

The occasion is being financed by the striking Donatella Flick, the society

spouse of Gert-Rudolph, awarding £15,000 to the winner out of her own

Described variously as "dazzling" and "daffy". Donatella is renowned for her ambitions as a patron of the

arts. Doubtless, her husband's recent academic rebuff caused much distress, hut she need have no fears with the

"I haven't the faintest idea where

her money comes from," declared a lofty Clive Gillinson, managing direc-

tor of the LSO. "And quite honestly, that's all there is to say about it." Not

a Balliol man, clearly.

What are they

talkin' bout?

Dylan and Eric Clapton. And.

Pete Townshend, composer of Quadrophenia, says he will be

having surtitles so that those attending can follow the story.

Myself, I always found Roger

intelligible. Now, surtitles for Bob Dylan ... that could be quite helpful.

Daltrey's vocals completely

pocket.

Brown's Budget plans at a glance

- New income tax higher rate: 45 per cent
- Payable on income over £40,000
- Government borrowing to be cut to average 2.5 per cent of GDP
- Interest rate policy unchanged

and substantially lower than the deficit over many professionals - for example, in the financial services business - are mobile;

securing these activities in the UK requires

appropriate taxation. It is not at all clear

competitive' means. If it means being competitive by standards, it would suggest an increase in the top rate to perhaps 50 per cent. If it means being compeditive with East Asia

United States, little very scope for a tax rise at all, which seems

A clever policy might be to hold the rise in top rates below 50 per cent, say to 45 per cent. That would be below that of the large European Union countries and, allowing for state and local taxes, not much higher than the United States.

But income tax isn't the only personal tax that is likely to rise. Gordon Brown has strongly attacked Conservative aims to abolish both capital gains tax and inheritance tax. The rules on both may be tightened. Yet Incentives for long-term saving VAT unchanged but cut for domestic

Corporate tax under review

· Public spending virtually unchanged

there will also be tax incentives that may benefit the well off. Mr Brown has committed a Labour government to further incentives

for saving. Present PEPs and Tessas seem

Labour's

equality?

dilemma

Yvette Cooper

on Labour's

Tomorrow probably supple-Does new mented by some kind of individconversion to account, which the market would mean it has encouraged by iettisoned its tax concessions, commitment to paid after a qual-

likely to he

ifying period.
On indirect taxation, there are few clues. most troubling Mr Brown says that be would like to see a cut in VAT on fuel,

but that would presumably apply only to fuel used in the home. It would be consistent with the tone of his approach for there to be higher taxation on any polluting activities, including road transport. Increasing VAT seems unlikely.

On company taxation, less is known, though the forthcoming corporate tax review will clarify things. One of the few specific suggestions is a windfall tax on the profits of multiple and Beauty has critical the public utilities, and Brown has criticised the use of offshore companies to escape taxation. There are words of encouragement for

small and mediumcreators of jobs, so it is unlikely that taxes nn them will rise.

So where do these calculations on tax and borrowing leave us on public spending? In practice, the level of spending will be limited by the available revenues. If the taxation prin-

ciples ahove are

adhered to, they will create little additional revenue. There will be few bonuses from further privatisation as that cupboard is bare. Add in that fact and it is quite possible that a Labour government which intends to stick to its principles would have to tighten fiscal policy: public spending in future might be lower than it is now, however surprising a conclusion that may seem. Two things are likely to happen to public spending: it is likely to be redirected towards low-income families, and there will he a drive for better value for money.

Further, there will be a drive for better value for money in public spending. Mr Blair has praised a speech by Sir Geoffrey Holland, former permanent secretary at the Department of Education, now Vice-Chancellor at Exeter University, who argued that there could be a 30 per cent improvement in the education system within existing budgets.

Expect more of the same on interest rates, although Labour has pledged to give the Bank of England more independence, while making the way it sets monetary policy more open and accountable. The solidity of Labour's commitment to a single currency is not clear, hut, in practice, policy seems slightly less hostile than that of the

present government.

Criticism of Labour's economic platform from the right has generally followed a predictable line: new Labour is really old

and spend, anti-husiness government. Behind this is the idea that Tony Blair and Gordon Brown will not be able to keep full control of economic policy, and the old, and still very evident, instincts of the rest of the party will dominate. This is a legitimate concern. Tony Blair adopts a completely different tone - particularly when he is speaking abroad - from those of his colleagues, including members of the Shadow Cabinet. It is almost as though they

My own view, though, is not to be too concerned about this, not just because of the Blair/Brown dominance of the party, hut more because the practical reality is that there is no alternative to the model now accepted by the leadership, Any straying from fiscal and monetary orthodoxy will be punished with swift ferocity. A Labour government will be given less benefit of the doubt than a Tory one. This is perhaps unfair but inevitable because of the legacy of distrust in the husiness and financial community.

see two different worlds.

My greater concern is that expectations of what a Labour government might achieve in economic policy run far beyond any conceivable reality. Gordon Brown's belief that changing economic polices will lead to higher growth is, at best, extremely optimistic. Tony Blair's belief that improved education will lead to greater prosperity has long-term merit, hut it could take 10 or 20 years.

So much of the political dehate in Britain presumes that the economic policies we adopt here are of great importance. Viewed from outside, they are not. It is a typical medium-sized economy with some strengths and some weaknesses. The UK is part of what inevitably will he a slow-growth zone in Europe, hut it henefits from being one of the most outwardlooking of the European economies. It can be nudged helpfully by appropriate government action, but all one can really ask for is reasonable competence.

dictable line: new Labour is really old
Labour with a more agreeable face, that
when push comes to shove it will be a tax

That we may get from Tony Blair and
Gordon Brown. But if we expect anything
more, I fear we will be gravely disappointed.

DIARY J

Leaving the trains and the strains

I hear that Roger Salmon (below). who recently announced that he will be resigning as head of the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising in October is planning a period of convalescence.



seems that the strain organising the sell-off British Rail's vices for the three vears and dealing with the Labour transport

spokeswoman Clare Short, who politely called him "a rat leaving the sinking ship", has convinced him of the merits of monastic life. When he leaves his post in October, the former Rothschild director is going to spend a month on a course of meditation.

Patron of the arts, no questions asked

High morals at the high tables of Oxford. But a more pragmatic approach is being adopted at the London Symphony Orchestra.

Earlier this month, Gert-Rudolph Flick withdrew his endowment of £350,000 for a chair at Balliol College because some of the old members of the college had heen pointing out with some asperity that his grandfather, for whom the chair was named, had been a Nazi employer of slave labour. Happily for music lovers, how-ever, the LSO is less troubled by such

The orchestra is to take on the winner of a young conductors' com-

Mad cows in the Saudi silly season

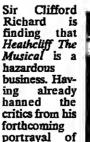
Anyone who thinks there has been sensationalist reporting of the "mad cow disease" story here should read the front page lead story of the Saudi Gazette, the English language newspa-per of Saudi Arabia. It starts with ironic lyricism: "Over the centuries, a green land of luxuriant herbage and a healthy livestock nourished the legend that beef as much as beer was a national birthright of Britons. It may now be killing, not ennobling hearts but rotting brains ... The butchers in the entire continent have displayed boards on their shops that British beef is not sold there so that they may is not sold there, so that they may smoothly continue getting m with their business, laring the already hes-Thus into its stride the Saudi Gazette

So those old fashioned parents in the Sinties were right after all.
You really can't understand a
word these pop groups are
singing. It is, as they say, official.
For the first time ever, a rock concert is to have opera-style concert is to have opera-style surviving members of The Who will perform their 1973 rock opera. Quadrophenia, at all star concert in Hyde Park on 29 June in aid of the Prince's Trust on a bill including Bob

continues in forceful if lateral fashion: "On the other hand, 60,000 Muslim women's flesh was adulterated by Serbian butchers and the heinous crime was video-recorded and sold at all British video shops at £1,000 per cas-sette. The shopkeepers displayed the boards on their shops indicating that those cassettes are sold at their shops just to have the sex-fhirsty customers belonging to the Jewish and Christian communities."

I hope there is no Saudi equivalent phrase for "it must be true, it's in the

Cliff is taken for a ride in Dublin





hero, Sir Clifford, I gather, has now found that this acting lark has dangers even worse than critics - directors. Frank Dunlop, the former head of the Edinhurgh Festival who is direct-

ing Heathcliff, has been rehearsing with Sir Cliff in Dublin. Needing to go across town, Dunlop, forgetting for a moment that his leading actor is rather better known than some of his leading actors of yesteryear, took an astonished Sir Cliff on the top of a bus. Within minutes be was mobbed by crowds thinking it was a remake of Summer Holiday - the 1960s film where Cliff Ricbard and friends took a double-decker across Europe.

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Defeating the class enemy

What on earth do you do with a child who is just too difficult for teachers to cope with? Richard Wilding, a 13-year-old bearing a National Wilding. old boy in a Nottingham comprehensive, has just provoked the entire teaching staff at his school into threatening strike action – just to get him to stay off the premises. - just to get him to stay off the premises. Teaching other children in bis class has become increasingly difficult. Teachers have been threatened and felt their safety was in danger. It is impossible not to bave sympathy for them. They were threatening to strike for the sake of all the other hildren at the school for Richard Wildchildren at the schoot. Yet Richard Wilding has to be taught somewhere, his parents think it would be best for him to stay in the school he knows and if be went to another school wouldn't that be just passing on the problem rather than solving it?

The troubling thing is that Richard Wilding is not an isolated example. One of the teaching unions, the NAS/UWT, was involved in 52 cases last year in which staff refused to teach a difficult child; the numbers are growing. The number of children expelled in England bas risen from I1,000 to an estimated 15,000 in just two years.

All these excluded and expelled chil-dren are circulating in the system somewhere - perhaps spinning through another comprehensive, perhaps sidelined into a special school, or perhaps dropping out altogether. Disturbed and difficult as they may be, they can't just be kicked out on to the streets. Such a policy pursued over many years would have disastrous social consequences. The local education authority bas an obligation to educate them. Another comprehensive is unlikely to solve the problem - unless the new school has additional resources and expertise to

cope with the problem. Often they don't. Special schools - or special units used in conjunction with mainstream schools - do at least have more resources to cope with the particular problems of each child. They give classmates and teachers a welcome respite from the trouble. But for many children, isolating them from the socialising effects of more balanced peers may not be the best

Yet there are other people involved bere, beyond the troubled child and his parents. When one of their 30 classmates is extremely disruptive, the education of 29 other children is jeopardised. If - as is often the case in difficult inner-city comprebensives - other pupils have learning difficulties and behavioural problems too, the entire class can be destabilised by the anarchic actions of one child. Excluding the most impossible children may be the only way to give the others any chance of an education.

It may also be the only way for teachers and a school to enforce discipline. When teachers decide a child should be kicked out, the governors or local authority appeals board who contemplate over-turning their decision should be aware that they risk undermining the authority of the entire school disciplinary system. As a general rule, teachers need support and backing in the disciplinary decisions they make, in the interests of every other child at that school. child at that school.

The solution found in the Wilding case bas some merits. He will remain at the school but with a special teacher and home tuition. Many parents will wonder wby the most disruptive pupils should be rewarded with such lavish resources. Yet the reality is that more resources will bave to be devoted to these cases, ideally by providing more specialised teaching within schools, to safeguard the interests of the rest of the school and offer some hope of making the most disruptive pupils

Israel's road to nowhere

Inder the stated aims of Israel's "consequence has been severely to restrict the led" offensive in southern Lebanon to hit Hizbollah missile sites, a lawabiding Lebanese citizen should have the right to drive in peace along the road connecting his nation's principal cities. He does so today at the risk of being blown to pieces by an Israeli naval shell.

For several days in succession, two Israeli gunboats, cruising just off the Lehanese shore, have lobbed high explosives at cars and trucks passing along the only highway connecting Beirut with the cities of Sidon and Tyre, Yesterday, they fired at a car 25 miles south of Beirut, forcing it off the road and injur-ing its driver. On Monday, two cars were knocked off the road north of Sidon and their drivers seriously hurt. In another incident, a shell landed close to an ambulance, which swerved and injured a pedestrian.

None of these incidents compare with the borrific, accidental shelling of the UN base at Qana last week in which 120 Lebanese refugees died. Nor do the activities of the gunboats compare with Hizbollah's prolonged rocket hombardment of villages in northern Israel.

But this is a very odd kind of naval engagement: saloon cars versus 500 ton, fast-attack gunboats with rapid-firing 76mm and 20mm cannons. They bave all occurred north of Sidon: well north of the area of operations delineated by Israel when it launched its offensive. One con-

thousands refugees who, following Israel's own orders, have poured into Sidon.

Israeli officials say the naval blockade of the Beirut-Sidon road is intended to prevent military and other supplies reaching Hizbollah. According to the official line, individual cars are being targeted

based on "intelligence information". Pressed on this point, Israeli officials say the intention is to make it clear that anyone driving supplies to Hizbollah runs the risk of being shelled. UN convoys are allowed - by prior arrangement - to pass unharmed.

This was always a political war, launched to teach Hizbollah a lesson, toughen the electoral image of Shimon Peres and hludgeon Syria into joining the wider Middle East peace. Yet the conduct of the war bas rendered it a political disaster: increasing popular support in Lebanon for Hizbollah, giving the Israeli opposition a field day and placing the future of Arab-Israeli peace in the hands of the Syrian President, Hafez al-Assad

In the absence of a rapid ceasefire, the US Secretary of State, Warren Christopber, must press Israel to cease its bombardment of Lebanon's main civilian artery and all other activities that endanger civilian life at great political risk for little obvious military gain.



* LETTERS TO THE EDITOR *

Abuse scandal: when child care is tangled in red tape

ment of children in residential a children's department, to pro-vide a specialist caring service relieved of so much time-con-suming paper work and so many for children who were deprived of good family life. After 20 years, children's departments were integrated into the enlarged generic social services departments.

with the problem of bow to organise a service best suited to the needs of children in care. Clearly, better supervision of standards, staff selection and training are required. But is that all?

Larger departments bave advantages in co-ordinating services and setting priorities for various client groups. But bureaucratic structures become self perpetuating and remote from services departments this seems to have reached the stage where witness or victim. the allocation of finance and the time taken by social workers in fulfilling managerial requirements is at the expense of the client.

Vulnerable children, particu-

Sir: Ben Smolden may feel ful-

filled ("Rugby verdict changes sporting life", 20 April) but should the rest of us – while com-

miserating with his tragic injury

- be so bappy? His act of suing

the referee was another episode

in the ever increasing serial of

"damages" being awarded

against someone who was simply

These are some of my experiences: in the primary school

where I am a governor the chil-

dren cannot use eggs in cookery classes in case a child becomes ill

and a parent sues. I cannot organ-

ise a traditional raft race in a vil-

lage carnival/regatta because of

the huge premium for public lia-

bility cover. My council cannot

build an adventure playground

doing his or her job.

Litigation kills spirit of adventure

Sir: My memory takes me back larly, need above all, warm to 1948, when following the human relationships and under-Curtis Report on the ill-treat-standing. Perhaps what is also required is an examination of care, each local authority set up how social workers can be relieved of so much time-conmeetings to enable them to spend more time with the children for whom they are responsible.

KENNETH ALDOUS Banstead, Surrey

As in 1948, we are again faced Sir: It is not only in residential bomes that abusers are active ("Paedopbiles 'control children's homes' ", 22 April). Adverts for holiday playscheme staff attract replies which get no further once we ask people to sign the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act form. This is all we can do since the Crown Prosecution Service is so reluctant to prosecute because of the belief that people with learning disabilities will not be able to give evidence in court, either as a sector.

Incidentally, Makaton sign language has no sign for "abuse". PAM HANNAM Honorary Secretary Mencap Bristol of Trade.

because the peril is too great. A

friend who bas been a scout

leader for over 30 years will no

risk if someone sued me.

where else having the wettest winter since cylinders began?

I haven't the faintest idea. Weather-

Is that why the British weather map

pretends that Ireland doesn't even

exist? And why Northern Ireland

Mr Weatherman writes: Yes. Weath-

When they show the weather map

No. In Dublin they give the forecast

on Irisb TV, do they show ONLY the

Republic and not the Six Counties?

Because the Pope asks them to.

Why does the Pope ask them to?

I have no idea. I am not interested

in the truth, I am a weatherman. I am

trained to ignore the truth and deal in

probabilities delivered with a sickening

smile, without knocking the symbols off

for Northern Ireland as well.

To annov Ian Paisley.

Is there any truth in that?

Why?

the chart.

seems to be the whole of Ireland?

erwise, only Northern Ireland exists.

men in Britain are only paid to know

about the weather in the UK and in

places where we go on hols.

Kingsbridge, Devon

care for others.

Where?

Success for **British jobs**

Sir: You bave sensationalised a routine exchange of correspondence between me and a government colleague, about the interpretation of statistics, and contrived to invent bad news in our manufacturing sector - an area of outstanding recent suc-cess for Britain ("Minister in secret alert on job losses", 23 April).

You ignored the underlying sicture in the manufacturing sector. Manufacturing growth bas been experiencing a temporary slowdown; but both the CBI and the IoD have today reported confidence that output will rise in the months ahead. Since the recovery began, manufacturing output has risen by 8 per cent. Manufacturing employment rose in February and there are more than 50,000 more jobs now than there were at the beginning of 1994. That is the real picture of the state of the manufacturing

IAN LANG, MP (Galloway and Upper Nithsdale, Con) House of Commons London SWI The writer is President of the Board

No security for

Nineties fathers

Sir. Why bother to be a father?

West blinded by the Holocaust

Sir; In the discussion of the events now affecting Lebanon, it would be good to see an occasional reminder of the modern history of the Middle East, particularly Palestine. The one major relevant thing that most people seem to know is that six million Jews perished in abominable circumstances in the Holocaust. It is right that such an enormity should never be forgotten. But it is relevant to the Middle East only in its powerful influence on the collective mind of the West. That state of mind has induced a persistent hlindness in the West to the injustice perpetrated on the Arabs, first by the Zionist movement and

then by the State of Israel. A century ago the Jewish pop-ulation of the area was only about 6 or 7 per cent, and those were living among, and in much the same way as, the local Arabs. Many were tenant farmers, rentwith a right to pass occupancy to local customary law. The interhegan a programme of buying responsibility. from the landlords and evicting the non-Jewisb occupants, with-

out compensation. By the 1920s, when Arah distress was becoming acute, their villages were being bombed to help "encourage" them to move. The inevitable Arab revolt occurred. In the 1930s Britain, during its mandate period, proposed partitioning the country. The proposal was opposed by some of the Zionists, but Ben Gurion said: ... after the formation of a large

army in the wake of the establishment of the state, we will abolish partition and expand to the wbole of Palestine. The Holocaust wiped from the

West's postwar collective mind any sense of justice for the Arabs. The UN endorsed the establishment of Israel, and has sought in vain to contain Israel within its agreed limits. The public, unfamiliar with the Palestine history, but familiar with the Holocaust. has for long tended to see Israel ing from absentee landlords but as victim. It is time the balance of understanding was corrected. fairly influence governments. We national Zionist movement in Britain have a particular

JOHN TIPPLER Spalding, Lincolnshire To a the second

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Kept down by the class ceiling

Sir: Bryan Appleyard (18 April) thinks a classless society is a dead society. Only a member of the middle classes could think that. To be working-class in this country, even now, is to be denied

many things. At its worst this includes jobs, opportunities, prospects, a bouse of your own and self-respect: even at its best it includes entry into the worlds of art, literature and music, a really interesting, well-paid job and a halfway decent standard of living.

Working-class people tend to live in bouses owned by others.

whether a private landlord or a local council, with all the attendant lack of freedoms. They may have a holiday abroad every year but this will probably be in a resort staffed and organised for the package trade, where they will not travel in-country and they will not speak the native language. Generally they will bave a

books (and no hardbacks), they will drink beer rather than wine and own one suit for weddings and funerals. Of our parents' four children (father a miner, mother a cleaner) I am still the only one to

regional accent, there will be

more records in the house than

have gone through further education or to have a white-collar joh, despite all our parents' ambitions for us. In fact, I am the only one in regular employment. To be working-class in Britain is essentially to learn - and very young not to ache for what you will never possess.

PATRICIA MANSFIELD-DEVINE London N17

Sir: What do the upper classes use to fill their mouths (letter, 19 April)? Silver spoons, presumably. JACK FORTUNE London SE24

The outlook: gloomy with some dry humour

Today – an in-depth look at why we are having the driest winter since records began, courtesy of our resident expert, Mr Weatherman. Is this in fact the driest winter since

records began? Mr Weatherman writes: Not vcl. What do you mean, not yet? Well, winter hasn't ended vet. When does winter end? When summer begins. When's that? When we feel like it.

When's that? When we start opening the windows and taking our cardigans off. That's not very scientific, is it? I'm a weather forecaster, not a sci-

entist. What made you think there was anything scientific about weather forecasting? Well, it's one of the sciences, isn't it? Meteorology? One of the -ologies? Oh, sure, yes, meteorology, yes, Mete-

about meteors and I'm your man. Weather is another matter. Then how accurate are you when it comes to weather?

ors we're very hot on. Ask me anything

Very accurate indeed. 100 per cent In your forecasts? No. In saying what has already happened today, or yesteryear. You'll

notice that weather forecasters are at



their happiess when starting a report with words like, "Well, today has been wet throughout Britain, although temperatures were again quite high, with the best being recorded at Skegness and blah blah blah. Not much danger of getting the weather wrong if you look backwards. That's why we love

on record. record?

So far, ves. What do you hate being asked? We hate being asked what the weather's going to do tomorrow. Why?

Because we often get it wrong. if you get it wrong?

when all the forecasts said it was going

being asked if this is the driest winter Is this in fact the driest winter on

So why do people go on asking you, Because people have a short memory span. They forget what the forecast was. Last week, there was one day

because the rain didn't arrive till the evening. Of course, we didn't admit this. We just said in the evening fore-casts, "Well, the rain is going to con-tinue till tomorrow ..." and not one person rang up to say, "You lying blogskites! It hasn't started yet!" Why didn't they ring up? Nobody minds if we forecast bad weather and it turns out good. It's the

to be gloomy and wet. In fact, it was

the hottest and sunniest day for weeks

other way round that they mind when we forecast sun and it piddles Then wouldn't it make sense to forecast bad weather whenever you

are in doubt? Oh, we do. We ALWAYS forecast that things are going to be worse than we think they really will be. That way, either we are right, or we get it pleasantly

You always give us pessimistic forecasts? Certainly. Hadn't you noticed?

Good. The trick is working, then. So, is this the driest winter so far? Certainly, since cylinders began. What about records?

I think you'll find that cylinders on record? came before records. If the rain isn't falling bere, is it we've run out of space. falling somewhere else? Is some-The answer tomorrow!

longer take scouts from Salcombe Your report "Floundering fathers" (20 April) barely touched the real, but unspoken truth.

to Dartmouth in a wbaler for their summer camp as be used to every year. And now I cannot Like many men I could proborganise a kick around on the vilably live with the relatively superlage green because the financial ficial problems noted in the artisecurity of my family would be at cle: fathers being negatively

If individuals or institutions represented in the media; the wilfully provide unsafe practices overdemands of the Nineties or equipment, they should be indicted, but this litigious culture workplace: the heightened expectations of post-feminist mothers. we seem to be inheriting from the Your article alluded to high Americans will destroy the British divorce rates and noted the worktradition of enterprise, advening mother's complaint that, "all I'm looking for is a 50/50 split of the responsibility", without exploring the incompatibility of the two. The courts are predisture, tolerance, innovation, and ROGER ANSTEY

posed in favour of the mother's custody. So can someone tell me why a man should invest a joint 50 per cent commitment? Simply put, it's a gullible investment Even in the job-insecure Nimeties. a man's career offers more security than his position as a father. G M JONES

End animal tests

London E19

Sir. Once again, the controversia subject of animal rights is in the press (Polly Toynbee; "Animal rights can damage your health", 22 April). And once again, the image concentrated on is a negative one.

Most "anti-vivisectionists" really just expect more of modera science. The use of animal models is positively archaic, com-pared with new technologies such as computers, body scanners and cell cultures. These new methods can produce fast, accurate, reliable and relevant data that can only result in higher quality

CAREN WANNERTON British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection London N7

So, WHY is this the driest winter Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and Include a daytime I thought you'd never ask. And now telephone number, (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@ independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Easing debt crisis

Sir: It is good news that Kenneth Clarke is sticking with the UK's good record on debt relief (report, 22 April). The proposals being thrashed out between the IMF, the World Bank and the G7 countries will at last - if they are fully implemented - go some way towards lifting the worst of the hurden from the poorest countries. The human cost of debt is

enormous – already, for instance, Uganda spends 12 times as much on debt repayment as on healthcare. Throughout Africa, health and education budgets have been slashed, and infant mortality rates and malnutrition have gone up.

Surely, even in purely financial terms, a slight weakening of the IMF's financial base is a small price to pay to salvage several national economies.

BILL LINTON London, N13

Old Protector

Sir: The former Edward VIII (died in 1972, aged 77) and the former Lord Protector, Richard Cromwell (died in 1712, aged 85) might also deserve inclusion in the club of heads of state to have lived past the age of 70 (Letters, 22 April).

MIKE HANCOX Stourbridge, West Midlands

Railway in trust

Sir: All of us who support the railways and can afford it should buy shares in Railtrack. If enough of us do, we can make our presence felt at shareholders' meetings and, when a new government arrives in power which is more sympathetic to the railways than the present one, we could then sell our shares back to the government at cost price. What better way of "holding the railways in trust for the nation" than to do it ourselves?

TONY CHAFER Southsea, Hampshire

Penn's place

Sir: In "Trails of the Unexpected" (20 April), 1 read: "October 1996 marks the centenary of the death of Walthamstow's most famous son, poet, artist, designer, socialist and much else besides, William Morris."

Have you beard of William Penn, 1644-1718, born in Walthamstow, English Quaker? In 1681 he obtained a grant of land m America, in settlement of a debt owed by the king to his father, on which he established the colony of Pennsylvania as a refuge for the persecuted Quakers.

BRENDA M FREEMAN (née Penn) Brimscombe, Gloucestershire

JAN 100 150



Tightening the screw on prison regimes can get you a mile-high Daily Mail headline any dull news day. "Howard Bans Jail Cell TV" splashed the Mail's front page rester to the splashed the Mail's front page yesterday morning. The Home Secretary orders "a crackdown on prison perks" and is "taking a determined stand to establish a more aus-tere regime in jails". Such conicism takes the

hreath away - government by Daily Mail headline. It seems to be the only reassurance left to a party drowning in its last piti-ful days in power. The people no longer count. The facts certainly don't matter. The only way the Government knows it is still alive is by reading the Mail to see how it is doing.

It is government by 'Daily Mail' headline

Sometimes ministers get a kick in the teeth, sometimes they land a nice big fish, like yester-day. There is no other reality.

Senior civil servants in the Home Office have all but despaired of either rationality nor even a loin cloth of honesty from ministers. They no longer dare to advise ministers that proposed policies may be seriously wrong - they know it makes no difference. How it plays on the Mail front page is all that matters. This is the strongest indication that the Tories do not expect to win the next election, since they do not expect to pick up the pieces of their policies. They are not stupid and they know that their prison policies are unachievable, unworkable, unaffordable and very nearly mad.

But where are the debates about this? Where is the Opposition? Silently biding its time. What is the point of lying down in front of Mr Howard's steam-roller? Jack Straw asks. Only by far longer sentences are offihis acts in power shall we know will do better. Yet by failing to in other words, never. They are no votes in prisons, or at least Strangeways or the general overseen an increase of the Daily Mail rules, OK.



speak out, the public is denied meaningful discussion or real enlightenment nn the crime and punishment issues people rightly feel so strongly about. There is no one to tell them what works - only empty and expensive policies designed to please and bamboozle them, not to solve the problem. Who is there to scrutinise value for taxpayers' money spent on soaring prison numbers? The deficit in serious discussion on most issues that matter leaves an electorate either dangerously ignorant or wearily disaffected with all politicians.

Most of the policies in the

abont as much as a manifesto pledge by the Green Party, For if Mr Howard imagines that his main job is to help his party win the next election with as much law and order bombast as he can summon, he must reckon that he will be rewarded by not being returned to the Home Office to see his pigeons come home to roost. He counted them out, but let some other

Taking battery-operated television sets away from 2,000 long-serving prisoners who have bought their own is a pifthis nasty little announcement cially not due to he imple- has brought rich headline div-

guy count them in again.

just front-page policies, not in running good prisons plans at all. They are worth that might actually work. There are only headlines to be had from tough prisons.

However, even the Mail had the grace to report that Mr Howard is ignoring high-level warnings and that Sir John Learmont's report on prison security said more in-cell televisions could aid security by providing "a calming influeoce and a powerful incentive to good conduct". If not his civil servants, then plentiful other knowledgeable voices are telling Mr Howard that his a tinder box of tension huilding only craven following of the tling gesture of "austerity". But up inside many jails. One prison governor said wryly, "The ques- by the Daily Mail.

election? Howard has lit a fuse and it is not a very long one."

But where is the public debate on all this? Not in West-

minster among those we elect and pay to thrash out policies. Penal policy and how to rehabilitate criminals has been swallowed up into that huge hlack bole of problems that mainstream politicians no longer talk about. It joins poverty and the plight of the dispossessed, drugs and the law, the future of the monarchy, or taxation of the rich as one of the great unmentionables, Look for no leaderprison policy is a catastrophe. ship here among our "leaders", imaginary flock, as rep

prison population by an astounding 25 per cent in three years, to the highest level ever - and it is still rising by 150 a week, each one costing £2,000 a month.

The new head of the prison service, Richard Tilt, has said that 25 new jails will have to be built over the next 12 years at cost of some £6bn if the White Paper is implemented. Mandatory sentences for violent and sex offenders and third-time burglars, together with prisoners serving their full sentences, will lead to another 30,000 in jail.

But what no one has said is that this will never happen because it can never happen. No government will spend that much more money on prisons. This is mirage policy done with mirrors - il doesn't exist. What is actually happening is not

There are no votes in running good prisons

spending but huge cuts in prison

When I asked Jack Straw last week if prison numbers would fall under him, he said cautiously that he couldn't say they would necessarily. Why couldn't he say they would? Because the Daily Mail next day would no doubt have hit him with a headline saying "Straw To Open Prison Gates - Mur-derers and Rapists to Go Free".

Other voices are raised: Judge Stephen Tumim, the recent much-respected Chief Inspector of Prisons, has written on these pages of what can be done with good education, rehabilitation, arts and drugs programmes. He believes it as never been tried effectively, but Intensive education does work. Prisoners can be redeemed.

Where is the major politician to make that case? Labour, for the time being, has abdicated from the law and order debate. Lock them up and throw away his acts in power shall we know cially not due to he imple- has brought rich headline div- tion is just a matter of timing - The facts about prisons are the key is the only game in town Mr. Straw, and we can guess he mented until the end of 1999 - idends, so who cares? There are which blows first, another these: Michael Howard has until the general election. The

> idea of people's real concerns. Surveys repeatedly show that the priorities of cerns and force politicians to address these rather than those defined in

is news? What is, ultimately, important? Between OJ Simpson and the North Korean atomic bomh - an example drawn from Fallows - which matters? Any rational person would answer the latter. But the American ratings said the npposite, so how can

The problem is that the media have to retain their own sense of importance. The multi-million dollar anchormen must follow the ratings, but they must do so with the sort of gravitas that suggests the ratings are right - that OJ Simpson really matters. This forces them to be blind to the way in which the audience-media nexus is inventing a reality, a scale of significance. That this scale is, by any objective standards, perverse should warn us, as Fallows

Let's help men kick the sadness

On 'Defeat Depression Action Day', Michael Shooter calls for a fresh approach to male sufferers

I was young, I was male: I was going to be a doctor. Young men in the caring professions do not get depressed - or so I thought. In fact, I was on the edge of collapse.

I had always had an up-anddown personality, prone to fly-ing moods that would come and go without reason. This time the hlackness stayed with me. When a favourite patient died on mc. I plunged into a pit of worthlessness. I was no good as a doctor: I had never achieved anything: I would always be a failure. I had difficulty getting off to sleep and woke early. drenehed in sweat. I lost all interest in sex and are to stave off unhappiness. I went to the dean to tell him I was giving up

life itself. This was depression, of course, and he recognised it. His sympathy was the first step in my recovery - from an episode of what I now know to be a continuing vulnerability. I went to see a therapist who treated me with words and drugs. Above all, she helped me to see that this was an illness

which was not my own fault.

medicine. I was ready to give up

Mine is not an exceptional story - only, perhaps, in the speed with which I got help. One in five of us will become depressed at some point in our lives. At any one time, one in 10 of us will he struggling with depression of some degree. Men are just as vulnerable as women and may be even more so. We are three times more likely to commit suicide than women and in some groups it is easy to see why. Widowed males "cope" less well with bereavement; divorced males are often separated from home and children. Doctors, vets and dentists work under enormous pressures; farm workers toil in dangerous isolation. Many men

have no work at all. The suicide

rate among young men between 15 and 24, the most

worrying group of all, has risen

by over 75 per cent in little more than a decade. Men are reared in the belief that we should be strong and involvement in treatment self-reliant; that it is weak to admit to frailty and beyond the pale to ask for help of any kind. We dislike open talk of our feel-ings. Confronted by a partner who wants to talk, the depressed man may retreat further into his shell and destroy the relationship in the process. For the young man stripped nf self-respect by educational "failure", unemployment and rootlessness, with little family sympathy and isolated by

poverty, the very idea of help

may be fraught with stigma. How much easier to turn to alcohol and drugs, which only make depression worse.

So how can men be helped in their depression? First, it needs to be recognised. As much as 65 per cent of male depression goes unnoticed - by the general practitioner, male himself pernaps, who fails to see through the aches and pains to the unhappiness underneath or gives it scant attention, if he

does see what is going on.
The treatment, when offered, is not always what is needed. Many of us find conventional psychotherapy, involving talking about feel-ings, just too difficult. Cognitive

Services should shift to places such as leisure centres

therapy - which gets clients to reflect on their beliefs and perceptions about the world and gain a sense of logic and perspective without a discussion of feelings - can help men to address their most pessimistic thoughts.

Conventional clinics must be rethought: they are not places in which many men feel comfortable and able to tackle their depression. Psychiatrists should occasionally shift their services to places where men feel less threatened, to leisure centres, for example, which more and more men already use to improve their general health.
Just as child psychiatric services have adapted innovatively to the difficulties children experience in expressing themselves. so the adult services must get out of their ivory towers.

We know a lot about the causes and cures of depression, that physical exercise helps, that drugs and drink make it worse, that support from partners - and their makes for quicker recovery. The figures should worry us. hut we do have the power to help men back from their black. isolated loneliness to happier

The writer is a consultant in child and adolescent psychiatry with Gwent Community Health Trust. A fact sheet on Depression in Men is available from the Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, London SWLX 8PG. (0171-235 2351).

Today public life, overwhelmingly, happens in the media. Issues are defined and debated by newspapers, radio and television. As a result, both the issues themselves and the way they are presented are determined by media demands. We want excitement, personalities and confrontation; we do not want the dull grind, the ordinary realities that make society work. So, last week, the Tory chairman,

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Brian Mawhinney, lost his temper with Sue McGregor on the Today programme because she implied that John Major might be dumped. This was a game, nothing real was at stake. Both McGregor and Mawhinney are judged solely by how well they played, not by any meaningful content. Who won? Who lost? Whn cares? Too much of this stuff and we shall

lose all contact with reality. Some say that is what has happened to the Americans. There a new book - James Failows's Breaking the News: How the Media Undermine American Democracy - has informated the East Coast media élite. Fallows claims that television and newspapers are choking real debate, ignoring vital issues and promoting a vision of public life as a sport. Fallows is right. The political



The American media reduces politics to a personality contest, and Britain is heading the same way, warns Bryan Appleyard

on earth. All policy issues are reported solely in terms of political advantage. So Bosnia is not a matter of human suffering hat of the President's approval rating. Absurdly fêted TV anchormen condense the world into bite-sized chunks of predictable pap. Meanwhile, the pundits reduce all complexity to an unresulvable snarling match.

Fallows's case is that the nnly agenda of the media élites is a kind of perpetually recycled court chatter. Broadcast journalism fights the ratings war by turning politics into sport. And print journalism has been corrupted. Writers are lured into the game by being offered the supreme

prize - TV punditry.

The effect is to reinforce the media's sense of their own role as an élite. They operate according to club-like

pundits, Washington is the only place rules and conventions, excluding alternative versions. Policies are presented in terms of personality, not impact on ordinary, non-media people. Indeed, the entire electorate is treated as a dumb mass of pros or antis whose lives gain expression only

through opinion polls. Could it happen here? To some extent it already has. We have the spin-doctors and we have the lobby correspondents, eagerly recording their schemes. But so far we have not quite descended into the mire. This is because, first, print journalism is more powerful in this country. As long as prose is at least as important as the broadcast word, subtlety and complexity can never quite be lost.

Second, Britain is nothing like as parochial as the United States. Fallows reveals, shockingly, that the majnr news networks devote an aver-

age of six minutes a day to non-American news. Worse still, these few fragments from abroad consist mainly of catastrophe and weirdness. Convinced by hype that their televisions are a window on the world, Americans think of themselves as a beleaguered island of sanity in a landscape of gesticulating, murderous foreigners.

But there are deeper issues here that Fallows does not fully address. For much of the inanity he records is mevitable. News must compete with the huge flood of information and entertainment now available to everybody. It must seem as exciting and direct if it is to maintain its ratings and its circulation. Inevitably, it must present its material in competitive terms - and that means brutal conflict or sensation packaged to endorse its audience's expectations.

ordinary people are utterly different from those of the media. To reform themselves, he suggests, the media should take no these ordinary con-Washington. The real question is: what, exactly,

the newsmen argue?

odience's expectations.

Goes, that democracy really is in danger of being undermined.

The Tokyo gas attack case might force a nation to ask itself hard questions, says Richard Lloyd Parry

Japan holds its breath for the Aum trial

Thirteen months and four days after it began, the most traumatic episode in post-war Japanese history is about to enter its final act. At 10am today, heralded by circling helicopters, divisions of police, and many thousands of onlookers, Shoko Asahara, guru of the Aum Shinai Kyo calt, will finally enter the Tokyo District Court for the start of his manumorth trial. He faces 17 charges, including abduction, manufacture of illegal chemicals, and the murder of 11 commuters with sarin nerve gas in the

Tokyo subway last March. The attack, carried out on Asahara's orders by 10 of his young disciples, was without precedent - the first time in history that a terrorist group had employed weapons of mass destruction, let alone in a country that prides itself on its crimelessness and social cohesion. The trial itself is the culmination of the higgest police investigation in Japanese history. It will go on for years, but by the end of the hearings, Asahara is almost certain to be sentenced to death by hanging for any one of two dozen killings.

media palaver, the legal overkill and the mountain of facts that have accumulated about the crime and its alleged perpetrators, the court pro-ceedings will bring no sense of relief or resolution. The Japanese will be left with a lot of unanswered questions about the responsibility of their own

What drew so many clever young people to a man like Asahara?

society in fostering such a mouster. What drew some of the cleverest young people in the country to a man so transparently frandulent as Asahara? How could a group of religious crackpots amass an arsenal of deadly chemicals, and how could they gn undetected for so long?

The dismal shortcomings revealed by Ann Shinri Kyo case exist at several levels, and the most obvious But a curious emptiness pervades example can be seen in the work of the the build up to the trial. For all the Japanese police. Since Asahara

had attracted numerous allegations of property fraud, harassment and holding disciples against their will. In 1990, a lawyer campaigning against the cult was murdered on the guru's orders along with his wife and haby son. A badge dropped by one of the killers, and bearing the Aum logo, was found in his abandoned house, but the police insisted that they lacked evidence for a full-blown investigation.

In June 1994, nine months hefore the horror on the subway, seven people were killed in an earlier sarin attack in a small castle town north of Tokyo. Circumstantial evidence once again pointed the finger at Aum, which the police knew to be amassing chemical ingredients in its mountain commune. But even after the subway attack itself, Asahara and his followers were allowed two whole days to cover their tracks before the raids finally began.

On paper, Japan's justice system is the most successful in the industrialised world, with tiny crime figures and a 99 per cent conviction rate. This remarkable record depends largely on

confession evidence gathered, sometimes under suspicious circumstances, during long periods of interrogation. Memories of the Second World War. when the police acted as an arm of the authoritarian military government, have made undercover and surveillance operations something of a

He attracted educated young followers stifled by hierarchy

taboo. Faced with a suspect like Aum Shinri Kyo - highly organised, tightly knit and irrational - the police reacted with frowning bemusement.

The reasons for Asahara's success are deep and complex and will take years to be fully understood, but if analysts agree on anything, it is that they have to do with repression. Aum Shinri Kvo drew on an emotional underclass of highly educated young followers whose ambitions and potential were thwarted by a stiffingly hierambition yield place to the demands of rank and seniority. Most of its 10,000 members in Japan – among them scholars, scientists and soldiers - knew nothing of their leader's murderous intentions and were drawn instead to an organisation that promised an alternative to institutional careers.

In dealing with this situation, which served as a vote of no confidence by thousands of its own citizens, the only concrete measure produced by the government is, ironically, more repressive than ever. Sometime in the next few months, the government will put into action a plan to outlaw Aum Shinri Kyo under the Subversive Activities Law, a draconian piece of legislation devised during the 1950s to combat revolutionary political groups and never before used against an organisation. Aum Shinri Kyo will become an illegal group; meetings of its members and publication of its literature will be an offence. The cult, in other words, is being treated as an outsider, a Cold War adversary, when what it resembles above all is an enemy within.



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Rentokil swoops as BET bid battle nears climax

MAGNUS GRIMOND

The £2hn takeover hattle for BET is poised for a nail-hiting finish at the end of this week. Rentokil yesterday bought a 6.8 per cent stake in BET in a stock market raid, while the target itself won unexpected public support from several institutional

Rentokil's £130m share purchase, the first it has made during the course of the hid, was done at 202.5p a share - the same as the cash alternative.

Clive Thompson, chief executive of Rentokil, said the buy-

deal would go through. "It's a good purchase. We have bought from institutions who are not natural holders of Rentokil shares.

The hidder discounted suggestions that it had become nervous about the outcome of the bid just days before it is due to close on Friday. A spokesman said the move was in response to requests by institutional shareholders that wanted to

But the BET defence bandwagon continued to roll yes-

ing reflected confidence that the holding 17.25 per cent of its eq-deal would go through. "It's a uity said they would refuse the tested battle," said Nigel Utley. BET because BZW's stock-Rentokil offer. Prudential Portfolio Managers, holder of 5.26 per cent, Barclays de Zoete

Wedd Investment Management with 2.91 per cent, and Hermes Investment Management, the old PosTel, with 1.57 per cent, all publicly aligned themselves with a jubilant BET camp. The latest recruits to the BET side follow the rejection of the bid last week by M&G Investment Management, the group's higgest shareholder with 7.5

"It's gone from being a walk-

an analyst at the Greig Middieton broking firm.

A spokesman for BET said the company's chief executive, John Clark, had spoken to about three-quarters of its institutional investors. "As can be seen from today's

announcement, increasing numbers have the confidence to Andrew Skirton, chief exec-

utive of BZWIM, said they had taken some profits on BET shares a few weeks ago. He dismissed suggestions that they had taken the decision to support broking arm was advising the

He added: "We are acting in-dependently of them. We took the decision to sell some stock to lighten a little. We were not convinced that Rentokil would do a better job than the BET management.

It is understood that Prudential's decision was based purely on the value of the offer. A source close to Prudential said: "It does boil down to the usual subjective judgement of value and at the end of the day offer] was a knock-out blow." Mr Thompson was not con-

cerned about the support announced yesterday by some of BET's main shareholders. He added that the decisions of the and Prudential's stance was to

support existing management.
He pointed out that BZW had been selling stock recent-ly. He also believed that BZW and Hermes could not sell their remaining holdings in BET because they were in funds in-dexed to the performance of the 215.3p per share.

we did not believe [Rentokil's rest of the stock market. BET management again vesterday restated its claims to remain independent. The chief executive, John Clark, and the other executive directors said: "It is their [management's] intention to retain their financial comas predicted, and both M&G's mitment to the company, othet than in exceptional circumstances, during this ex-

citing growth period.

BET's shares added 4p to 205.5p yesterday, while Rentokil's put on 5.5p to 358.5p. At that level, the main shares-

Strong's future in doubt as Sears reveals £120m loss

NIGEL COPE

Scars, the retail group that includes Selfridges and the Freemans catalogue, reported the worst figures in its 31 years as a public company yesterday, fuelling speculation that the chief executive, Liam Strong, may be forced to stand down if the group's fortunes fail to improve.

Announcing a slump from profits of £154m to losses of £120m in the year to January due to poor trading and heavy restructuring charges, Sears' chairman, Sir Bob Reid, insisted that he and the rest of the board stood behind Mr Strong and that his departure was not

We are behind Liam. This vear looks like a bloodbath but it is a deck-clearing exercise. This will be a strong group and a real force in retailing," he said. However, in spite of Sir Bob's

wearing thin as promises of a hetter future consistently fail to be backed up by results. Since Mr Strong was appointed as chief executive in 1992, Sears shares have underperformed the FT-All Share index by 35 per cent. They closed 1.5p higher at 98.5p vesterday.

One institutional sharcholder said: "There can be no more errors and clearly things have taken a lot longer than anticinated. But we are not pushing for changes because 1 don't think it would be in our intercst to replace Liam at this point. I don't helieve the share price would respond.

Another shareholder who has been reducing his fund's stake said: "I'm not sure the Sears collection of businesses can be turned around by Liam Strong or anyone else. But he will get the blame and no doubt

support, investor patience is someone else will be trotted out as the next great hope.

about the performance of the remaining husinesses, which have seen like-for-like sales fall by 3 per cent in the 10 weeks since the end of January, with particularly poor performances from the Freemans catalogues. Dolcis shoes and Miss Selfridge.

Tony Shiret, stores analyst at BZW, said: "It's been a poor year and current trading is dis-appointing and weaker than most other figures we've seen from competitors. It undermines confidence in the chances of a recovery."

Sears' plunge into loss was

caused by excepctional charges of almost £200m relating to the sale of half a dozen poorly performing formats including Free-man Hardy Willis, Saxone and Olympus Sports.
Losses of £54m were record-

ed on the sale of FHW ,Trueform, Manfield Saxone and Curtess to the Sheffield entrepreneur Stephen Hinchliffe. However, leases on these stores could revert to Sears if Mr Hinchliffe's Facia group were to

Dutch shoe division.

Sears, which still has more than 1,400 stores, is being re-focused on four businesses: shoes, the womenswear division fell by mail order, clothing and Self-



Tough trading: Investors' patience with Liam Strong's leadership is wearing thing.

from £38m to £7.5m, with Dol- proved unpopular. There were further losses of cis struggling with too many £133m relating to the sale of fashion ranges. Trading prof-Millets, Olympus Sports and the its were down by 8 per cent at Freemans after the company struggled to recruit new agents for its catalogues. Profits in 4.2 per cent, with Miss Selfridge

ridges. However, profits col-suffering from buying too many. Manchester hranch, which will lapsed at British Shoe last year, high-fashion ranges which

> The Selfridges department store proved a bright spot once more, increasing trading prof-its by 22 per cent to £34.6m. The company is considering open-ing branches in Birmingham. Scotland and the North-east as well as the already announced

open in 1998. The Adams childrenswear division also did

The group loss of £120m was struck on total turnover up 9 per cent at £2.3bn. Trading profits before exceptional charts were £106m. The dividend was left unchanged at 2.9p.

Southern wins right to early bid for National

MICHAEL HARRISON

The prospects of Southern Company hidding for National Power increased last night after the US utility was given clear-ance by the Takeover Panel to launch an offer before the Government rules on whether to allow a fresh wave of consolidation in the electricity industry.

Last week Southern of A1lanta, Georgia, said it would not table an offer until the Trade and Industry Secretary. Ian Lang, had decided whether to wave through hids by the two generators, National Power and PowerGen, for regional electricity companies,
The Government is widely ex-

peted to approve the two merg-ers, leading to substantial vertical integration in electric-ity generation and supply. But vesterday it found itself facing further criticism in the shape of the European competition commissioner, Karel Van Miert.

Mr Van Miert allied himself with Labour and hanckbench Tory opponents of the two mergers by warning that they would produce vertically integrated energy companies while European Union policy was heading in the opposite direction.

Last night, after discussions with advisers to National Power and Southern, the Takeover Panel released the US company from this undertaking, saying it was not now prevented from making an offer at any

Although Southern is not thought likely to strike before Mr Lang has made his announcement, the fact that it asked the panel for clearance to do so was heing taken as an in-

The Government's ruling. which is due imminently, is expected to lead to a frenzy of stake-huilding, with National Power tipped to raid the market and increase its holding in Southern Electric and the Americans thought to be considering a similar raid on Na-tional Power shares.

If National Power gets the go ahead to proceed with its agreed £2.5hn offer for Southern Electric, it will try to push through the merger in 31 days. It already owns 8 per cent of Southern Electric and is widely expected to enter the market for further shares. It could increase its stake up to 30 per

Southern could strike hack with a knock-out cash offer for National Power, also with a three-week deadline, leaving shareholders with a straight choice.

A further option might be for Southern Company to launch a dawn raid on National Power shares and then use its stake in an attempt to persuade shareholders to vote down the National Power-Southern Electric merger at an extraordinary

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BRIEF

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The generator needs the approval of 51 per cent of those votes cast at an egm to proceed with the Southern Electric

National Power shares drifted 9p lower 10 close at 596p last night while Southern Electric

put on another 12p to 903p. The National Power hid is worth 960p per share but it is allowing shareholders to take a second interim dividend of 27p. which in effect mereases the value of the company's offer to

987p. Van Miert alarm, page 20

· . 1996

Sears

Industry woes ease rate pressure

DIANE COYLE Economics Editor

The continued weakness in manufacturing revealed by the latest gloomy survey from the Confederation of British Industry would ease the pressure on the Chancellor to raise hase rates. City analysts said vesterday.
"It is inconceivable that the

Chancellor will raise interest rates while manufacturing is this weak," said Simon Briscoe at the investment hank Nikko. Michael Saunders at Sa-

lomon Brothers said the cost of borrowing would not fall hecause of signs that consumer spending and the housing market were picking up, but he added: Base rates will probahly stay low for an extended

The CBI's quarterly survey showed that as many firms had reduced output as had increased it in the past four months. It was the first zero output balance since October 1993. Weaker exports lay hehind the disappointing performance.

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of them expect output to rise was a hit less than had been exduring the next few months. In addition, investment plans remained resilient, with a small increase in the balance of firms planning to invest-more.

However, Andrew Buxton, chairman of the CBI's econome affairs committee, said: "Previous surveys have shown that expectations of a recovery in manufacturing demand and output can be disappointed." Output for the home market

fell for the third successive survey, but it was export deliveries that were particularly disappointing. Although a balance of 17 per cent said in the last survey that they expected higher rather than lower exports, the actual balance turned out at only 5 per cent. Optimism about export prospects in the year ahead has fallen dramatically during the past 12 months,

Business confidence fell for the fourth survey in a row, the first year-long run of increasing pessimism since mid-1991, at the depth of the recession.

Source: FT Information

The balance of firms plan-Firms did manage to run ning to axe rather than add jobs down stocks slightly, and a was minus 14 per cent, the low-

more joh cuts in coming months. The higgest job losses were concentrated among the higgest firms. Those with under 200 staff reported a small increase in employment levels, and plan to continue increasing employment. By sector, job losses were sharpest in the

consumer goods industries. The survey brought good news on the outlook for prices. The halance of firms expecting to raise prices was only 10 per cent, compared with 18 per cent a year ago. The reported in-

positive halance of 14 per cent est for two years. The reduction crease in unit costs was the smallest for more than a year, pected, but firms are planning and the balance expecting costs to rise rather than fall during the next four months is zero. A separate survey from the

Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors said the construction industry was "delicately halanced" between continued recession and the prospect of modest recovery. Its workload fell by 2 per cent

in the first quarter but confidence levels in the expected workload have improved for the last two quarters. A net balance of 10 per cent expect an improvement over the next year



INTEREST RATES

Railtrack sale fails to excite small investors

MICHAEL HARRISON

The troubled Railtrack flotation is only expected to attract half the number of private investors that took part in the last big Government privatisation - the £3.6hn sale of the two electricity generators a year ago.

Government advisers estimate that by the close of regis-tration in six days' time, 1.6 million to 1.7 million smallshareholders will have registered with share shops to take part in the £1.8bn offer.

This compares with the 3 million registrations received for ast year's sale of the Government's remaining stakes in Na-tional Power and PowerGen. The figures suggest that abour's warnings about the

risks involved in buying Railtrack shares have begun to percolate through to investors. They also indicate that the inprecedented inducements to tempt the public have only heen a partial success. For the first time, investors will be entitled to a share of £69m in dividends earned when Railtrack

was still in public ownership.

Railtrack shares are expected to produce a total return of 15-20 per cent in the first year - a higher yield than has been offered in an previous Government sell-off.

Investors who take part in the public offer will also be eligible for a 15p discount to the price paid by institutional investors on their first instalment and further incentives in the form of honus shares or additional discount on the final instalment. By last Friday night I.4 mil-

lion people had registered with one of the 110 share shops involved in the offer. Of these, 140,000 are active investors who have been automatically registered by a share shop.

Government advisers maintained that the response from the public was in line with expectations given the nature uf the Railtrack sell-off and its size. The offer is half the size of the generators sale last year and the marketing and advertising bud-

get is also only half the size. The level of registrations still suggests the offer will be oversubscribed. The Government is setting aside at least 30 per cent

lication of its intentions. accountemps RECRUITMENT

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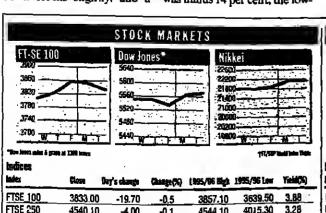
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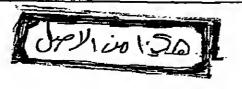
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COMMENT

'It may be that Mr Strong has good excuses for his failure to deliver shareholder value, but when you are paid nearly £500,000 a year, excuses are not what

shareholders expect'

A high-flier with the skids under him at Sears iam Strong has had four years to turn around Sears, the struggling retail giant; as yesterday's results showed, he has failed

to make much, if any, progress. Sears is such a ragbag of unconnected retail businesses that this may not all have been his fault. The task may always have been largely impossible. The City is a ruthless and unforgiving place, how-ever, and there can be little doubt that time is fast running out for this former British Air-ways high flier. The chief converted ways high-flier. The skids are under him, and Mr Strong will be lucky to sec in another

Christmas trading season.

How could things have gone so badly wrong? He started reasonably well, if slowly, and made low-profile progress for the first couple of years. Geoffrey Maitland Smith, whn had been there far dankey's years, first as chief executive and then chairman, would go, he promised, and the deep problems of British Shoc Corporation would be addressed. It was not until last year that Mr addressed. It was not until last year that Mr Maitland Smith finally slipped away, unloved and unnnticed, and judging by the latest calamitous results, Mr Strong has never managed to get to grips with British Shoe. Indecision, prevarification, lack of direction – this was the sort of culture for which Sears has long been known. Nothing much

Sears has long been known. Nothing much seemed to change after Mr Strong arrived. Executives came and went with alarming rapidity. Few of them could have had time

place. The company's price continued to flounder and the share has harely moved since Mr Strong arrived, underperfirming the rest of the stock market by 35 per cent.

More recently, there have been some real howlers: the write-down of old footwear stock and the attempt to sell it off cheap.

stock and the attempt to sell it off cheap alongside the new lines, and the too-rapid roll-out of new formats cannibalising old ones along the way, to cite just two. In the end Mr Strong's solution was the one he could have applied right at the start – to sell the problemsome businesses entirely. When he finally bit the bullet, however, it was at the cold days a right have goet all last knockdown prices, which have cost all last year's profits and the same again in writedowns and rationalisation expenses. To give away a large slug of your market share to Stephen Hinchliffe may or may not be an acceptable thing to do but when it is at considerable cost to the balance sheet it seems hard to justify. The expensive leases on these unwanted shops could yet revert to Sears if the Hinchliffe business founders.

The one business that seems to be doing well, Selfridges, was the one Mr Strong had originally earmarked for sale. Management never had any proper view of what the core businesses should be or what strategy should unite them. It may be that Mr Strong has good excuses for his failure to deliver shareholder value, hut when you are paid nearly £500,000 a year, excuses are nnt what share-

Manufacturing is not the main game

There is tremendous romance in manufacturing. Monuments like Fort Dunling, just off the M6 at Birmingham, or the Llanwern steel works in South Wales, are evocative symbols of this country's former economic might. But manufacturing does not matter much in modern Britain. It produces less than a quarter of nutput and employs

fewer than one in five of those with jobs.

This is not insignificant, but it highlights the danger of setting economic policy on the hasis of manufacturing alone. In judge by the comments of some City pundits, the current weakness in industry is enough to set the tone for monetary policy. Yet even the CBI, no mean lobby for manufacturers, felt compelled to point out in yesterday's industrial trends survey that its corresponding surveys of retailing and financial services suggested the economy is picking up nicely.

Manufacturing is sending out distress to develop, let alone execute a strategy for the husinesses they were charged with, even if they had been the right choices in the first strategy for the husinesses they were charged with, even if they had been the right choices in the first strategy for the husinesses they were charged with, even holders expect. They expect solutions, Sir falling and financial markets are looking very in the unemployment count is solutions. Sir both Reid, the chairman, says Mr Strong has shown indeed. Financial and business serquite strongly, the unemployment count is would do to falling and financial markets are looking very into power.

put of the service industries as a whole grew five times as fast as manufacturing in 1995. The fixation on the grimy glamour of man-ufacturing creates a deeper problem, however. It is not just a question of getting interest rates a hit wrong by focusing too much on the minnrity sector of the economy. It also means that Britain does not nurture its successes. The City has the money and influence to celebrate its own achievements. Outside the Square Mile, we downplay the economic importance of much British creativity and success in industries ranging from tele-vision and the music business through retailing to software and industrial design. They do not have their monuments yet, but they are three times as important in the British

Bargain basement at Railtrack

economy as manufacturing.

The public response thus far to the great Railtrack share offer probably says as much about the goods on offer as Labour's dire hut largely empty threats about what it would do to Boh Hortnn's trainset if it got

The fact that 1.4 million would-he price.

nf registrations, it puts things into

Perspective.

Ah, says the fat controller in charge of flogging Railtrack to a wary public, but Gencos 2 was twice the size and we have only

spent half the amount promoting it.

This kind of reasoning might be par fir the course when drawing up railway timetahles but it flies in the face of logic since the level of investor interest ought to be influenced as much by the returns available as the size of the offer.

In the case of Railtrack these are consid-

erable indeed. The yield on the shares in year one makes them look like a steal not just in comparison with huilding society deposit accounts but also against almost any initial public offering we have seen before.

Still, even at this subdued level of interest the Railtrack offer should be comfortably subscribed, allowing the Government in claim a success of sorts and avoiding a nasty derailment in the after-market. Even so, the Railtrack flotation looks like being a Pyrrhic victory for politicians on both sides. In as much as Labour's threats have hit home, they have guaranteed that Railtrack will be knocked out at a bargain-basement

OFT calls for fresh curbs on market-makers

JOHN EISENHAMMER Financial Editor

The Office of Fair Trading is pushing for further curbs in the privileges of market-makers prior to the introduction of a new way of trading equities in considerable power of marketmakers, principally their ahility to delay the publication of large trades, is the subject of intense negotiations between the Stock Exchange and all the main City regulators as well as the Treasury.

The Board of the Stock Exchange is expected tomorrow to announce a delay in the detailed about the introduction of the new equity trading system next stamp duty. year. Sources said the Stock Exket-makers the regulators agree are acceptable for the new system before consulting with investment banks and orders are institutional investors on the next year. precise details of how the new

system should operate. The negotiations have repartially settled last year when. after several OFT reports complaining that the privileges that the big market-makers distorted competition, the Chancellor of the Exchequer accepted a compromise whereby the publication delays were shortened. Under the new rules, 75 per cent of trade by value must be pub-

lished immediately. Yesterday John Bridgeman, director general of the OFT told MPs at a Select Committee: We would like to see immediate publication for all trades. That is our ultimate objective and we believe it is possible to go further than the 75 per cent

Mr Bridgeman was giving evidence to the Treasury Committee as part of its inquiry into the Stock Exchange prompted hy the sacking of its chief executive, Michael Lawrence, at the beginning of this year.

Mr Bridgeman made clear London. The key issue of the that in the current talks with the Stock Exchange the privileges accorded market-makers, the hig firms that drive trading by quoting continuous huy and sell prices for sbares, and es-pecially the ability to delay informing the test of the market of a hig trade so they have time to offset their risks, is the OFT's main source of anti-competitive concern. The OFT is less worconsultation of the market ried, he said, about the privilege exempting market-makers from

The radical reform of share change feels it needs a clearer trading in London heing idea of what privileges for mar-worked on by the Stock Exchange proposes to introduce an electronic system that automatically matches huy and sell orders around the summer of

Initially, however, this order-driven capacity is likely to be relatively limited and alongopened the wounds of a sensi-side it will be a facility for tive debate that was only block trades carried out by the market-makers committing large amounts of capital. The market-makers are arguing that for this to succeed they will need similar privileges under the new system to those they enjoy under the current quote-driven mechanism.

> As a consequence of the difficult negotiations on these privileges, the Stock Exchange is expected to put off the next stage of its consultation process on the order-driven reform. A first consultation showed that there was broad-based support for some order-matching sys-tem, similar to that used in all other main international financial centres.

The T5

shouldn't be interminable.

IN BRIEF

 The US trade gap shrank to \$8.19bn (£5.4bn) in February thanks to a rise in exports. The higgest contribution came from shipments of civilian aircraft. The sensitive bilateral deficit with Japan widened slightly, to \$3.9bn from \$3.8hn, hut there were small declines in America's trade shortfalls with China and Canada, while the deficit with Western Europe halved to \$459m.

◆ The accountancy profession's investigation of the collapse of International Signal & Control, the defence company that hrought its parent company Ferranti to its knees, is close to completion. The inquiry by the Joint Disciplinary Scheme, which expect the control of the collapse of the control of the collapse of the colla amines the most serious allegations against members of the English and Scottish institutes of chartered accountants and the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants, began in mid-1993, following the discovery of a massive fraud in 1989.

 Sandoz shareholders overwhelmingly backed the \$36bn merger with Ciba-Geigy that will create Novartis, the world's second-higgest drug company selling products ranging from Gerber baby foods to painkiller Voltaren. Novartis will have annual sales of \$22bn, surpassing Merck and ranking just behind Glavo Wellcome. of the UK. Ciba Geigy's shareholders will vote on the merger

 Amersham International has appointed Richard Lapthorne, finance director of British Aerospace, to succeed Edwin Nixon as non-executive chairman from July. Mr Lapthorne has been a non-executive director of Amersham since December 1988. Mr Nixon was appointed to the board of Amersham in 1987, taking on the chairman's role in April 1988.

• Lasmo said that operating costs were expected to fall to £3 per barrel in 1997 from £3.17 in 1995, reflecting rising production and continued emphasis on cost control. Rudolph Agnew, chairman, told shareholders at the annual meeting that the company's new production target for 1997 was 210,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day.

Sunday Business sold 145,608 copies of its launch edition last Sunday, a spokesman for the company said. The initial print run was 330,000 copies against a planned \$80,000. The 200-page, five-section debut edition hit the streets after a last-minute funding crisis as the paper's main potential backer - the Hinduja family from Mumbai, India - withdrew last week. Sunday Business declines to reveal its new backer.

The proposed Terminal 5 at Heathrow is one of the largest planning applications ever.

It also has the potential to be costly and long winded.

To avoid this BAA called in McKenna & Co to represent them in the public inquiry.

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Van Miert alarmed at wave of power mergers

PETER RODGERS **Business Editor**

Karel Van Miert, the European competition commissioner. yesterday made clear that he was concerned about the latest wave of mergers in the electricity industry, which he said was taking the UK back to "square one.

Speaking at a Lahour-sponsored conference at which Tony Blair and Gordon Brown made the keynote speeches. Mr Van Miert appeared ready to align himself with Labour fears about the re-emergence of the structure of vertical inlegration between generators and distributors in the elec-

tricity industry.
This was broken up at the time of privatisation when the UK separated generation and distribution.

The Monopolies Commission is believed to have given conditional clearance to takcovers of distributors by the two generators. National Power and PowerGen, while Southern Company of the US. which already owns a distributor, has said it would like to merge with National Power. The Labour Party has fiercely criticised the moves.

Mr Van Miert said he had noticed "with some concern" the mergers under way in the UK energy sector, which came at a time when the European Commission was "trying to go



Karel Van Miert: Echoing l abour fears on electricity

in the original British direction. It now appears that at the end of the day you are back to

He suggested that EU memher governments would be asking the commission why it was taking the stance it did, if the UK was reverting to the old structure.

Scrutiny of the current round of electricity mergers in the UK is the responsibility of the British government ,not the commission, and Mr Van Miert did not suggest he was about to take action himself.

The conference also heard Adair Turner, director general of the CBI, call for the par-

ty's anti-inflation commitment to be enshrined in a "clear and specific target at around the present level of 2.5 per cent" and he also asked Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, to pledge to increase the independence of the Bank of England.

It is thought to have been the first time a director general of the CBI has spoken at a conference organised by

Mr Turner continued the CBI's efforts to remain politically neutral by rejecting hoth Tory and Labour claims about the health or otherwise of the economy and Britain's relative position in the international pecking order.

He said: "The record neither supports the assertion that we have a uniquely flourishing economy with all the problems solved, but nor does it support the idea that we continue in relative decline and require a revolution in performance."

Growth had heen about av-

erage for Europe over the last decade and "while it has not heen any better than average it has not been worse." Speaking after Mr Brown and Margaret Beckett, the

shadow trade and industry minister, had torn into the Government's claims of improved economic performance, Mr Turner said Britain was an attractive place to do

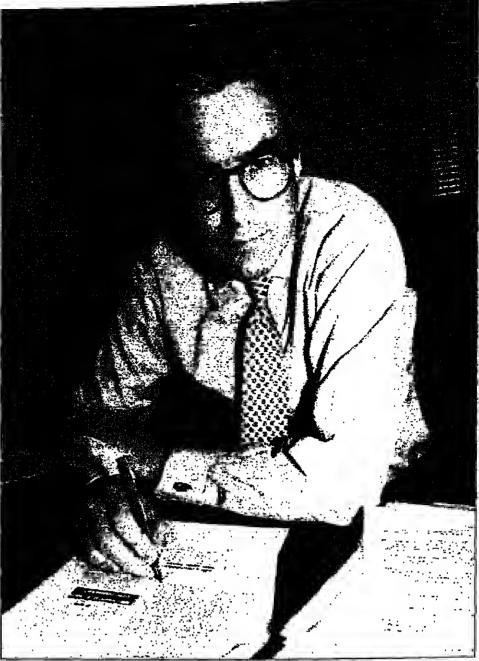
In terms of productivity, the UK had closed some but not all of the gap with main competitors, but while other European countries still ran large balance of trade surpluses the UK ran a deficit.

Mr Turner reaffirmed opposition to Labour's support for the European Social Chapter and a national minimum wage. But he said Labour had made significant strides towards a more business-friendly approach to economic

manifesto" as a challenge to both the main parties in July in the run-up to the next Mr Turner said a flexible

labour market was needed to deliver low unemployment. Business opposed the Social Chapter, he said, not so much hecause of what was in it today but because it could lead, in the future, to the imposition of labour market rigidities seen in some Continental countries.

On the minimum wage, he said: "It is one of the causes of high unemployment in France, and would increase unemployment here. We believe that there are better ways to fight the impact of low pay via extension of the in-work henefit system and focusing personal tax reductions on lifting people out of the tax net



Adair Turner: Rejected both Labour and Tory claims about the health of the economy

Salomon gains in first quarter

NIC CICUTTI

Salomon Brothers, the secondlargest US securitles firm, yesterday reported first-quarter earnings of \$276m (£180m). the third-best ever achieved hy the company.

The earnings gains came from trading in bonds and commodities as well as advising companies and underwriting

Salomon's profit was more han twice the average estimates by analysts. It marked the third consecutive profitable quarter for the firm, which sufed through 1994 and the first half of 1995, amid trading losses, book-keeping problems

and employee defections. Deryck C Maughan, chairman and chief executive of the firm's securities unit, said: "Salomon Brothers produced excellent results for the quarter. Our objective is to build our underwriting and advisory revenues and to maintain effective control of our risk."

Analysts said Salomon, like the rest of Wall Street, had benefited from buoyant markets, increased underwriting quarter.

rate mergers.

"They are doing what they've always done," said James Mulvey, a securities analyst at Dres-dner Securities Inc. "They're primarily a trading house, and trading was good for them this

But concerns remained about the firm's ability to deliver consistent results or returns superior to its rivals. Tony Russ, an analyst at Shelby Cullom Davis & Co, said: "1 still think this glass is half empty, when you have as big as quarter as this is and you only get a return of 26

With \$4.06bn of equity capital and \$191bn of assets, Salomon is the biggest bond trader in the world and among the

higgest oil traders. Bond trading provided the bulk of the firm's revenue, rising to \$732m from \$398m a year earlier. The firm also gained in investment banking, where rev-

Salomon was the secondlargest underwriter in the US. with sales of \$27.2bn in US stocks and bonds for the first

and the record pace of corpo-

enue rose seven-fold to \$181m.

Babcock St suffers from UK row with Saudis

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Babcock International stunned the stock market yesterday after revealing that the UK's diplomatic row with Saudi Arahia would contribute to aa £18m operating loss for last year. The news comes after the group revealed big problems at its German materials handling division last year and the shares plunged 15.5p to 113p

yesterday. Babcock said the losses would be more than offset by £21m of exceptional gains, principally from the sale of its Renfrew-based energy husiness, leaving a profit of £3m for the year to March. But the trading losses are a big setback after two years of a three-year recovery programme led hy new management and their size dismayed analysts. One said: "This is obviously absolutely dismal. Everyone saw the company in March and this level of problem was not indicated then. It means that 1995 and 1996 profits will be decimated."

Nick Salmon, the chief executive who is trying to turn the group around with chairman John Park, said the Saudi losses would be less than half the

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The company had heen unexpectedly turned down for a big project in Saudi Arabia, thought to he a £70m deal to build a petro-chemicals plant for Saudi Aramco, which has now

gone to the Japanese.

"We built up staff and project teams on the expectation of the start of a major project which was first delayed and then switched to a non-UK contractor, he said.

Similar experiences have reportedly been had by other UK companies. "The official position is there is no difficulty with the UK and I think both governments are making strenuous efforts to support that aim, 1 think what is happening with Davy, John Brown and ourselves is that the reality is

different." Mr Salmon made no comment on the continued presence in the UK of the Saudi dissident. Mohammed Al-Masari, which is at the heart of the diplomatic dispute.

to regret that having made a concerted effort to develop a business in an area, that effort

has been frustrated. The loss of the husiness has cost 40 to 50 jobs and means that plans to recruit around 200 extra staff have been abandoned.

METENSON

The Saudi husiness represents over a third of Babcock's process engineering business. which had a turnover of £86.7m in 1994/5, and has been built up rapidly over the past two to three years.

Dublin labels group buys Prontaprint for £18.9m

TOM STEVENSON City Editor

Prontaprint, the stationery group that was taken private in 1992, was sold vesterday to the Dublin-based labels husiness Adare Printing Group for £18.9m.

The offer of £15.11 for each Promaprint share was recommended by Richard Raworth. the company's executive chair-man. Adare has claimed acceptances for 96.4 per cent of Prontaprint's shares. Mr Raworth and his family

own almost 60,000 shares, which they acquired in 1992 for £1.19 a share. The sale will net the family a windfall profit of more than £800,000. Shareholders also have the alternative of accepting a tender offe for their shares from the company itself if that makes more sense for tax purposes.

After the acquisition. Mr Raworth is expected to stay at the head of Prontaprint, which has 250 shops in Britain and made profits of £2m last year. with as much as £8m expected for 1995. He will also be offered a seat on the Adare board.

Adare, which grew strongly in the six months to October, has made no secret of its desire to exoand into Britain. It will build on Prontagrint's existing fran-



brand further.

During 1995, Prontaprint's sales of its design, printing and copying services grew by 17

chise and hopes to develop its grown by an average of 28 per time of the deal, which incent a year since the buyout, which was backed hy the ven-ture capital groups 3i and ECI Ventures. That growth was well per cent to £24m. Profits have in excess of targets set at the

volved the acquisition of Continuous Stationery, which was then quoted on the London stock market.

Adare moved into book

printing and publishing last year when it bought the Duhlin-based Mount Salus Press Holdings. That took it into educational printing and computer manual production.

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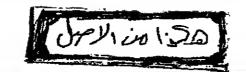
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St Ives weathers the paper storm

St Ives continues to shine like a bea-con above the rest of the printing in-dustry. Its unflinching commitment to investment throughout the recession has seen it pump £125m into the busi-ness over the past five years, all financed from internal cash flow. That is in stark contrast to others in the inis in stark contrast to others in the industry who have been forced to raise cash or undertake a seemingly con-

tinuous process of restructuring.

The fruits of St lves' investment policy came through in half-year results showing profits raised a healthy 25 per cent to £19.6m in the six months to 26

The figures included a maiden con-tribution of £1.31m from Johler Druck, the German printer of newspaper inserts and other direct response advertising material acquired in a £19m deal last September. No skeletons have been uncovered in that particular cupboard, which represents St lves first foray into the continental market for these products.

But despite results which beat many

expectations, the market reacted by marking down the shares by 5p to 469p.

St lves is the UK's leading book printer, with around a fifth of the market, and there had been worries about the impact of the collapse of the net book agreement last year. Those now seem unfounded, as the group appears to have weathered the squall, with sales in the half year ahead in both hardback and paperback books.

More serious were delays and startup problems with new printing presses at Caerphilly. The difficulties, combined with some caution amongst publishers after paper prices rose, hit profits in magazine printing. Nonetheless, the group has maintained volumes. winning several new titles such as Loaded, Marie Claire and Goal.

The rest of the business has contin-

ued to grow. The increase in hids and deals in the City fuelled first-half growth in security printing, where St Ives is a leading player, and the boom-ing stock market bodes well for the future. But the main boost to the group's profits came from direct response and the new multimedia cassette sleeves to CD-Rom printing operation. The mar-ket for the former is expanding at around 5 per cent a year.

Net margins at the group appeared to slip a touch to 11.6 per cent in the first half, but in reality this reflects the increase in the direct marketing business where paper costs are borne by the printer rather than the customer, as in traditional printing. In reality, underlying margins are now close to St Ives' peak level of 15 per cent.

Given its strong market position in most areas of the home market, St Ives is increasingly going to have to look abroad for growth. With capital expenditure expected to fall from around £48m to £30m in 1996, net cash could be hack up to £29m by the year end,

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

St Ives: at a glance

Market value: £470m, share price 469p

giving the group plenty of firepower. Henderson Crosthwaite's full-year profit forecast of £43.5m suggests a forward multiple of 16 for the shares. A fair rating for such quality.

Heavy demands at Harvey Nicks

Harvey Nichols, the upmarket Knights-hridge sture, has huilt its reputation on selling fancy goods at fancy prices to its well heeled clientele. It is fitting therefore, that the company's floration should be priced at a punchy level that may deter all hut the shop's most ardent supporters. Even Edina and Pat-sy of Absolutely Fabulous might think twice about this onc.

At 270p per share, the price values Harvey Nichols at £148.5m, which is an awful lot for a single store. An additional problem for private investors is that as the shares are being placed only with institutions, ordinary folk cannot buy them until they start trading on Friday. By that time, given the reported level of institutional interest, they are a strong niche in fashion, which has won likely to have risen to an even higger

The real winner bere is Dickson Concepts, the Hong Kong-based company which includes the opening which currently owns all the shares but all stores, and restaurants.

Earnings per share (pence) 15.2

Dividends per share (pence)

Trading record

Pre-tax profits (£m)

Net cash

will be reduced to a 56.4 per cent hold-

The company's advisers say the placing has been 15 times oversubscribed and that fund managers have found their allocations drastically scaled back. This indicates healthy demand but is also testimony to the kind

Huntleigh finds the US, that is normally put behind

ing after the sale.

much larger companies.
On this valuation it is perhaps worthwhile comparing Harvey Nichols with House of Fraser, the department store group which floated two years ago. House of Fraser has 51 depart-ment stores and has a market capitalisation of £400m. Harvey Nichols has one and is valued at £148m. Even given the value of the Knightsbridge

property, that looks steep.

Harvey Nichols has clearly been a financial success in recent years. A loss of £3.4m on sales of £55m in 1993 has heen turned into a profit of £6m on sales of £77m last year. The estimate of this year's figures are for profits of £9m on sales of £90m. In a period when some department store operators have

the loyalty of London shoppers. There is also an ambitious £9.5m expansion strategy for the retail business which includes the opening of region-

1995

128

15.7

11.2

2.5

Share price

pence

1996

166

Retail flotations are often popular because of their well known hrand names and people's interest in owning a slice of their favourite store. On estimated earnings per share of 10.5p for the year to March 1996, the shares are on a thumping price/earnings rat-

Harvey Nichols is a strong brand and a well managed husiness. But at these levels the shares look too expensive.

comfort

Think of a fantastic growth market and the chances are it will not be the sale of mattresses, hospital beds and other low-technology medical equipment. Glamorous it may not be, but those mundane pieces of kit have been a gold mine for Huntleigh Technology, one of the most successful companies on the stock market since its 1985 flotation.

Profits of £12.8m in the year to December were 32 per cent better than in 1994, confirming the continuation

of the growth story.

Earnings, up a third to 29.9p, have risen tenfold in as many years, allowing a 33 per cent rise in the dividend for the year to 8p.

The success of Huntleigh, whose

products also include Doppler foetal monitors and pressure-relieving devices for reducing the risk of hedsores, stems from its success in tackling overseas markets. Last year 56 per cent of turnover was derived from exports and sales are now made in more than 80 countries.

With markets in areas such as the Far East growing at an impressive lick, that geographical diversity is a real bonus and should pave the way for good growth for years to come. Further reassurance is provided by the very dullness of Huntleigh's products - they are not fashion items and huyers such as hospitals, doctors and nursing homes tend to stick with a product they know

and are happy with.

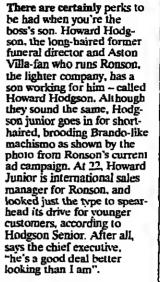
The key for investors, who have seen their shares grow from just 17p in 1988 to 888p yesterday, up a dramatic 75p on the day, is just how much of the good news is in the price, especially as hro-kers' forecasts suggest that the growth rate of 30 per cent a year over the past decade is set to slip to a more modest, although still impressive, 20 per cent from now on.
On the basis of house broker Bee-

son Gregory's forecast profits of £15.3m this year and £18.4m in 1997, the shares now stand on a prospective price/earnings ratio of 25 falling to 21. With such an impeccable track record, that is almost an acceptable level but there really is little scope for any disappointment from the company. High

When the boss's son is a Brando lookalike

CITY DIARY

JOHN WILLCOCK



A sour hroker's joke doing the rounds vesterday on Sears' (owner of Selfridges) less than sparkling figures; An anagram of chief executive Liam Strong: "Lost Margin". Ouch.

While shadow chancellor Gordon Brown was lambasting Britain's top accountancy firms for supposedly "ped-dling lies" over Labour's tax policies yesterday, there must have been several in his audience squirming. Attending the London conference "Business and Labour" to hear Mr Brown and others were at least four people from the vilified firms. Although no firms were named, Michael Fowle, senior partner of KPMG's London and South Eastern Region, must have heen more irritated than most. A hullabaloo recently hlew np over KPMG's 50 tax seminars across the country to advise on what to do if Labour gets in. Other



Wild one: Howard Jnr in a drive for younger customers

high-powered bean counters present were from Coopers & Lybrand, Arthur Andersen and BDO Stoy Hayward.

More squirming at "Business and Labour". At one point Ed Balls, economic adviser to Gordon Brown, was due to chat to Dr Laura D'Andrea Tyson, national economic adviser to President Clinton, via a TV satellite link. The link, supplied by BT, failed to connect for six minutes, during which time Balls waffled on brilliantly. Finally Balls had to admit: "Now I know what it feels like to be Terry Wogan waiting for the link to Luxembourg."

Thomas Teichman announced yesterday that he

Miles Emley, chairman of St Ives, the printing company, observed yesterday that "the collapse of Barings had its hright side for us. We printed two books on the subject. Every disaster has its silver lining". St Ives also managed to print last year a biography of the Queen, an Oasis album cover, something called Rock'n Rom for Penguin, Tina Turner's "Wildest Dreams" album and two Beatles anthologies. The busy chaps also managed to print the documents for the merger between Lloyds and TSB and all the copies of Louded magazine. Is there a connection here?

will step down as executive director of Maid, the overhyped on-line information company, in order to launch his own corporate finance boutique. Teichman helped Dan Wagner to launch Maid in 1985 after he had spent 20 vears in investment banking. with the likes of Bankers Trust and Credit Suisse First Boston, Teichman's new firm, NewMedia Investors, will specialise in giving advice to on-line-type companies, "Internet companies and that kind of thing," according to a spokesman. The first client will be Maid itself. The firm will limit its advice to six clients at a time to maintain quality - "Tom's 6 Max rule", it says here.

We neglected to say yester-day that Darren Higgins, who ran the London Marathon dressed as Wonder Woman. ran the course in an impressive three hours and 40 minutes. Darren, of Ernst & Young, also wanted to point out that "the tights and black wig were hired for the occa-sion". Of course, Darren.

McCarthy shows 50% profit rise

TOM STEVENSON City Editor

McCarthy & Stone, one of the only retirement home huilders to have survived the housing slump, continued its recovery in the six months to February, announcing a 50 per cent jump m profits and promising a drive to increase volumes in the next

More unit sales and slightly better margins drove the halftime increase and John Mc-Carthy, chairman, said signs of improvement in the housing market generally made him "cautiously optimistic" about the rest of the year. McCarthy sold 357 retire-ment homes in the six-month

period, an increase of 12 per cent on last year. That, together with a small increase in return on sales, from 33 per cent to 34 per cent, pushed pre-tax profits up from £1.4m to £2.1m. The company paid its first interim dividend since 1992, a 0.55p payout.

The shares, which have enjoyed a strong run over the past year, closed unchanged at 100p as the market focused on the company's measured comments on trading. "Whilst recognising the con-tinuing difficulties facing the

housebuilding industry, we re-main confident for the years ahead," the company said. Shareholder caution reflects memories of the collapse into of use for its mainly town-the red in the early years of the centre sites.

1990s when McCarthy made aggregate losses of more than £60m between 1990 and 1993. The shares, which reached 584p in the summer of 1987, fell to

a low of 22p at the beginning of

1993. Average sales prices were more or less unchanged during the half year at £63,400 (£63,000) with the increase in operating margin coming from a reducing land cost. The problems facing the housing market were also underlined by an increase in the number of buyers relying on selling their existing home to McCarthy at a discounted price to enable them to

Even more than other housebuilders, McCarthy is dependem on its customers being able to free up the capital tied up in often large family homes to finance the purchase of a retirement fist. Part-exchange deals rose from 44.5 per cent of transactions to 50 per cent, although the company main tained the amount of capital tied up in secondhand properties by selling them on more quickly. The balance sheet remained strong with net cash of £3.6m at

the half year. A hig problem facing Mc-Carthy has been the increase in delays in the planning process, with some applications taking more than a year to push through the system. McCarthy has to gain approval for change

In Brief

\$657m, or \$1.29, the previous year. Turnover was 11 per cent ahead at \$3.67bn. Sales of Pravachol, Bristol-Myers' cholesterol-lowering drug, rose 47 per cent to \$255m, while sales of Taxol paclitaxel, a drug used to treat cancer, jumped 59 percent to \$200m. Sales of Capoten, a drug used to lower high blood pressure, fell 15 per cent after the patent on the compound expired in Fehruary.

will succeed him. Peter Ellis, a director of Kleinwort Benson In-

 Aim-listed healthcare-products distributor VDC said the balance of its shares not taken up under its recent 32.4 million rights issue have been placed with broker Beeson Gregory at a price of 170p per share. Almost 700,000 shares had not been taken up. The company said on Monday that 51 per cent of its one-for-five rights issue had been taken up at 675p per share.

year and moved into car security and computer systems, issued a profits warnings yesterday saying it was unlikely to meet mar-ket expectations. Chairman Duncan Clegg told shareholders at the company's AGM that despite a healthy performance from the Primary Distribution data storage company and efficiency gains at the Laserline security systems business, the group was unlikely to meet forecasts.

time. The deficit came despite net revenues which climbed from \$15.8m to \$25.5m last year. The company said the principal focus of this year's exploration programme will be on exploring its large and highly prospective concession in Mexico and adding to these holdings. These have increased to approximately 120,000 hectares, after the company staked two additional concessions, Saladillo 3 and Remo Unido.

market consensus of £7.9m. The company said the expected mcrease reflected March sales significantly ahead of hudgets, leading to improved margins for the year as a whole. The profits estimate excludes a pension credit of about £3.4m.

and misdirected". The group advised its shareholders and said that none of its directors, who speak for 27 per cent of the company, intended to accept the offer.

ing that it is to change its name to Liberty International. South African insurer Liberty Life owns two thirds of the shares. It is hoped the new name will help promote the company as the in-ternational arm of the £5bn South African group.

	COMPA	NY RESULT	S	
	Tomover È	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Alexandra Workwear (F)	65.3m (61.8m)	5.3m (4.3m)	10.3p (8.4p)	6.5p (6p)
Cosall (I)	36.1 m (33.4m)	1.11m (0.83m)	6.18р (4 48р)	3.6p (3.25p)
James Diskie (I)	17.2m (14.0m)	8.99m (0.89m)	8.34p (8.95p)	2.2p (2p)
TJ Hughes (F)	50.9m (48.5m)	0.92m (1.63m)	3.2p (5.43p)	2.65p (2.65p)
Humileigh Tachsology (F)	91.9m (70.1m)	12.9ra (6.66m)	29.93p (11.45p)	8р (6р)
McCarthy & Stree (1)	24.2m (25.1m)	21m (1.4m)	0.8p (0.4p)	0.55p (cit)
Seart (F)	2.02bn (1.94bn)	-128m (154m)	-7.1p (7.5p)	3.95p (3.95p)
Sheret (F)	11.5m (8.40m)	0.65m (0.58m)	6.8p (8.1p)	4.2p (4.7p)
SI ives (I)	166m (128m)	19.6m (15 7m)	13.37p (11.16p)	2.9p (2.5p)
(F) - Free (I) - exterior	(M) - l'ane racritis			

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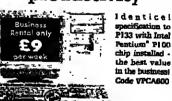
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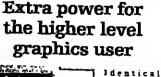
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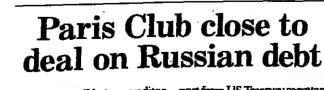
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Washington - Western creditor countries are close to a final deal on rescheduling Russia's foreign debt, largely borrowings made by the former Soviet Union, writes Rupert Cornwell.

They also accept that Moscow is pushing through the economic reforms it agreed as the price for a \$10bn (£6.6bn) loan from the International Monetary Fund last month.

minister, said he had won sup-

Speaking during the IMF and World Bank spring meet-ings, which concluded in Washington yesterday, Vladimir Panskov, the Russian finance

port from US Treasury secretary Robert Ruhin for a long-term rescheduling of the \$45bn owed to the rich nations grouped in the so-called "Paris Club". The Cluh could give final approval as early as this week.

Remaining obstacles were apparently removed by assurances from Mr Panskov and Sergei Dubinin, president of the Russian central hank, over progress of Russia's implementation of the free market reforms. It had been widely feared President Yeltsin would abandon the politically painful plan ahead of elections this summer. 1 [7]

Bristol-Myers Squibb, the US drug giant, announced better than expected first-quarter earnings, boosted by strong sales of its cho-lesterol-lowering and cancer drugs. The New York-based group said net income rose to \$726m (£481m), or \$1.44 a share, from

 Colin Maltby, chairman of Kleinwort Benson Investment Trust since 1992, is retiring from the board. David Acland, a director, vestment Management will also be joining the investment trust

Stordata Solutions, which changed its name from Miligate last

Monarch Resources, the mining group, plunged to a \$37.8m loss in the year to December, reversing a profit of \$409,000 last

• 600 Group, the engineering company, said it expects profits for its 1996 financial year to he about £9.5m, well above the current

Ennemix, the quarrying group, has again lambasted Redland's 35p-a-share offer, calling the approach "ill-conceived, misinformed

Transatlatic Holdings announced at yesterday's annual meet-

market report/shares

distinction of being the best

as sellers chipped at its mod-

candidates, like Ladbroke and

Ladbroke has rarely escaped

Zeneca, made late runs.

bid is unclear.

Engineering

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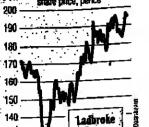
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It lost out towards the close

performing blue chip.

FT-SE 100 3833.0 -19.7 FT-SE 250 4540.1 -4.0 FT-SE 350 1936.5 -8.1 SEAQ VOLUME

1.08bn shares, 38,066 bargains Gitts index



DATABANK Late runs from takeover favourites come to the rescue

If a few old takeover favourites had not come to the rescue the stock market would have present and Scottish among the canstock market would have predidates. sented a sorry sight.

In late trading Ladbroke ticked up 4p to 198p with one For much of the session it seemed National Grid would, deal going through at 199.5p. in effect, sum up the display. Regarded as the most boring The shares closed at 196.5p. Ladbroke's late run continconstituent of the FT-SE 100 index it seemed set to enjoy the

ued a pattern which has been established for some months. During much of the session the shares do little but in the final hour or so come to life. The inference, of course, is US buyest gain and tired old takeover ing and it is significant that a deal with the American Hilton Hotels Corporation has emerged as the most likely dethe bid frame in the past six

months and there seems little Ladbroke runs the interna-tional Hilton spread; HHC doubt that a deal is near. Whether it will be a full blown the US hotels. Uniting the At one time Bass was the two chains has obvious adfavourite to strike: then Scotministration and marketing tish & Newcastle was dragged benefits. But there must be into the speculation. It may some doubt whether such an have been pure coincidence alliance would be created by that the latest Ladbroke spurt HHC bidding for Ladbroke.

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN Stock market reporter of the year

One solution could be Ladbroke exchanging its hotels for a large stake in HHC and retaining its betting operations. Zeneca gained 33p to 1.390p, nursing hopes of takeover action with Roche,

its country's big drug alliance and auxious to expand, the rumoured predator. Footsie ended 19.7 points down at 3,833.0. Even the sup-porting FT-SE 250 index ran out of steam. After achieving nine consecutive highs it ended 4 points down at 4,540.1. The downbeat CBI survey and the failure of rumoured bids to

Volume was high, topping one billion shares. Rentokil's raid on BET, collecting 6.8 per cent, was a significant factor: so was heady trading in little Lionheart, a houseware group being reshaped with an open the Swiss giant squeezed out of offer and placing raising £4.5m; £4m coming from the sale of its brushes side and Mark Flatman recruited as chief executive from Cour-

taulds Textiles. Seaq put turnover at 188 million with one sad little trade going through for the sale of 510 shares at 0.75p. "It must have been a tidving up deal", said one stockbroker. The emerge were inhibiting shares fell 0.75p to 1p. influences. Pentland, the sportswear

group, ran ahead 6p to 112p in brisk trading as word went round it was likely to announce Charman. Olympic games sponsorships and tie-ups.

Micro Focus continued its retreat off 118p at 1.025p, following the failure of the expected bid to appear. But Meyer International, the timber group, jumped 26p to 460p on talk of a bid from Wolselev. off 11p at 464p.

Pelican, the restaurant chain opening its 100th outlet this week, was unchanged at 140p although Whitbread is said to have had a 180p a share offer rejected. Alvis added 2p to 171p on GKN bid Wickes, the building mate-

rials retailer, shaded to 140p. Mees Pierson, the stockbroker, reports trading has improved since March.

Amersham International jumped 26p to 1.031p as Richard Lapthorne, finance

International's order book by the row between Saudi Arabia and the Government hit the shares 15.5p to 113p. Others with Saudi involvements suffered with BAe off 14p at 864p and Rolls-Royce, despite a successful US analysts visit, 2p to

Mayflower Corporation the automotive design to bus making group, advanced 4.5p to 112.5p in response to recent analysts visits to its Walter

Alexander bus subsidiary.

Industrial Control Services
rose 11p to 115p following an £11.4m rights issue at 90p on a one-for-three ratio. The cash goes towards funding its order book running at twice last

Share Price Data

The Independent Index

Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

FT-SE 100 Index hour by hour

Open 3839.7 down 130 09.00 38435 down 92

vear's level. Cafe Inns gained 13p to a 183p peak on its swing from tenanted to managed pubs.

Silicit of File Date

3888 Prices are in starling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by
2899 Prices are in starling except where stated. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share
2809 price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items.
2819 price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items.
2829 Softer details: xt Ex rights x Ex-dividend kt Ex all u Unisted Securities Market's Suspended.
2820 Other details: xt Ex rights x Ex-dividend kt Ex all u Unisted Securities Market's Source: Firstat.
2821 Prices are in starling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by
2821 Prices are in starling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by
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2824 price divided by last year's dividend at Except up and in the share
2825 price divided by last year's earnings per share.
2826 price divided by last year's earnings per share.
2827 price divided by last year's dividend with the price dividend

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Heading for Ofex is a company created by nine former executives of Inmos, the old Government chip maker. They lived off their redundancy for 11 months and with help from Inmos and grants and loans established Motion Media, which created a video telephone add-in card for IBM compatible computers and has now developed a stand-alone video telephone. Around 1.7 million shares are being sold at 67.5p, raising film. Dealings should start

Securities are stockbrokers. Benfield & Rea, an investment trust investing in Lloyds trusts, held at 110p. There is talk of a bid from a Bahamas group. B&R is run by Benfield Group, the vehi-cle of Matthew Harding of Chelsea Football Club fame, and merchant banker Rea

within a month. Hawthorne

92.42 -0.32 SHARE SPOTLIGHT stare price, pence





Government Securities

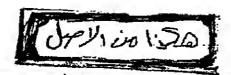
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CRICKET 1996: The Independent county-by-county guide to the domestic season. By Derek Hodgson

New year demands a new resolution

DERBYSHIRE



Derbyshire hope the squall has passed and that the summer will bring fair weather. The financial crisis has been turned into a surplus and the friction between Kim Bamett and a number of senior players has been renumber of senior players has been resolved without Barnett departing.

coup and the season will pivot upon him. Barnett reverts to senior professional after 15 summers in charge and expects of 20,516 runs - he needs another 403. Jones reinforces the team's weakest department, but they still look a batsman short unless Chris Adams and Colin Wells contribute significantly. The fast bowling - Malcolm. DeFrentas and Cork, with

strengthened by Matt Vandrau's welcome return from South Africa.

A less-publicised amval is that of Victona's coach Les Stillman. Stillman and and deviation, as the square settled down, Jones are a proven parmership in Australia: how they adapt their methods to the Peak District will be crucial. Captain: Dean Jones

Overseas player: Dean Jones (Aus) Last year: BAC; Lith NWT; OF, B&H: 3rd Group B, SL: Sin In: O Jones (Aus., & Dean, S Lacey, B Spendiove at May.)

GLOUCESTERSHIRE



that, without Courtney Walsh, Gloucestershire would finish sixth would have suggested too much order with Rosie.

But along came an almost unknown powling partnership in the shape of Javagal Srinath and Mike Smith, a wandering Queenslander named Andrew Symonds and a reiningorated captain and wicketheaper in Jack Russell. The team caught fire. Monte Lynch, discarded by Surrey, made five centuries and took some dazzling catches. How far this elan will be carried forward is the question. V/alsh will be back soon and as Gloucester-minded as ever, he must come close to being the best value for money overseas player alongside Clive Lloyd, Richard Hadlee and Allan Donald. Symonds is now committed for three years, but Srinath will be touring and Smith has to

prove his recovery from injury. batsmen, despite the rather surprising departure of Dean Hodgson. Dickie Davis, from Warrackshire, will strengthen the bowling with left-arm spin, Russell's re-turn to England duty will be welcomed by one man, his talented deputy Reggie Williams. Gloucestershire's prospects are indeterminable but they will be well worth watching - a team of surpnses. Captain: Courtney (Valen

Overseas player: Courtney Walsh (Wil-Last year: BAC: 6th; NW: QF, B&H: QF; SL: 15th In: R Davis, C Walsh (Wit

LEICESTERSHIRE



The mid-summer losses of James Whitaker, now captain, the overseas pro, Hanse Cronje, and all-rounder Vince Wells, all through injury, followed by David Millins breaking down, made Leicestershire's seventh position highly

creditable and said much for the resilience of Nigel Briers' team. Phil Simmons returns in place of Cron-

je and the batting, with Ben Smith and Darren Maddy establishing themselves, has further support with the arrival of the lily replaced. Oxford pair lain Sutcliffe and Gregor Whitaker's concern will the form and fit-

ness of Millns and Alan Mullally, his two quick bowlers. Gordon Parsons, highly praised by both Briers and manager Jack Birkenshaw for his increasing acceptance of responsibility, is now a genuine allrounder, while off-spinner Adnan Pierson. with 6S wickets, fully deserved his cap. Whitaker will aim to improve upon the 1995 showing but without another topclass bowler it is difficult to nominate Leicestershire for any competition, un-less Milins and Mullally are always avail-able and shooting straight and fast. Grace Road has been livelier of recent seasons and long may things continue

Captain: James Whitaker ast year: BAC: 7th; NW: 2nd rd; B&H: 6th grow In: C Remy, P Summons (WI), O Stevens, D Williamso

SOMERSET



If Somerset could achieve a season like last, with four successive Champi onship wins in June, without Andrew Caddick and Andre van Troost, what

might they do with a full-strength attack? As their principal all-munder Graham Rose also missed four Championship matches, ninth place represented a great effort by a patched-up team, handicapped as they often were by the inconsistency of the talented openers Mark Lathwell and Marcus Trescothick. Of the bowlers, Simon Ecclestone, Ja-

son Kerr and Kerth Parsons all benefited from earlier experience but Mushtag Ahmed, who took 92 wickets at 29, will be with Pakistan. The new overseas professional is Shane Lee, a New South Wales fast bowler who, with the addition of Kevin Shine, now puts the emphasis on seam rather than spin.

The off-spinners, Harvey Trump and Ja-1995 form and the middle has been reinforced by the improvement of Piran Holloway and Rob Tumer.

The west will be disappointed if Som erset do not come a little closer to silverware. A fast bowler called lan Bishoo has arrived but this one is from Taunton.

aptain: Andy Havburgt Last year: BAC: 9th; NW: 1st rd; B&H; SF; SL: 14th in: I Bishop, S Lee (Aus), K Shine. Out: M Ahmed (Par).

DURHAM

Durham's decision to mint **老** 老 their own talent, rather than import expensive veterans, will be tested fully summer. Only one of the

expected to captain the second team. The appointment of Dean Jones both as Replacing Wayne Larkins, who gave full captain and overseas professional is a West Indies, an opening batsman of similar attitude. Mike Roseberry, the captain, will surely have a better season than he to overtake Denis Smith's county record did last year and John Morris has another year's experience from the home-grown Jimmy Daley and Stewart Hutton to support him.

Colin Campbell and Jason Searle, from the England under-19 squad, reinforce Simon Brown and John Wood, both fit - Malcolm. DeFrenas and configuration. Malcolm. DeFrenas and configuration. He again, in the attack but the important ractions in the county's tradition, fierce and is, in the county's tradition, fierce and is, in the attack but the important ractions in Durham's progress may be the arrival of the experienced coach, Norman Cifford, and the behaviour of the square at the new Riverside ground.

All judges agree that the variable bounce did much to undermine Durham's shaky confidence last season. Northamptonshire and Yorkshire are both due at headquarters by the middle of May to measure progress. Captain: Like Roseberry

Last year: BAC: 17th; NW: 2nd rd; B&H: 4th group 4: SL: 16 In: C Corrobell, S Campbell, P Collingwood, A Pratt Out: W Landris, M Prabhakar, M Society, P Wilcock

HAMPSHIRE



Maicoim Marshall returns, this time with a fast-grow ing reputation as a coach, to a county which accepts that after a winter of change there is much settling-in to be accomplished.

John Stephenson is the new captain, with Robin Smith as his vice captain, following 11 years of leadership from the charismatic Mark Nicholas, Winston Benjamli is back as the overseas player, succeeding the Zimbabwean Heath Streek, and Marshall's first task will be to coax consistent performances from a highly talented but equally temperamental cricketer. There are several young batsmen hoping to fill the gap left by Nicholas, including the former Cheshire all-rounder Simon Renshaw, Jason Laney and Giles White. Stuart Milburn had just broken through into Yorkshire's first team when he was, surprisingly, released.

Stephenson accepts that he may have There is no shortage of promising young to be patient before there are any dramatic improvements in a side which has not finished above 13th in the last four years. But Hampshire did win the Sec ond X1 Championship, so they do have some winners on the staff. And awaiting a first-class debut is one Liam

> Captain: John Stephenson Last year BAC: 13th; NW: 1st nr. B&H: 5th group C; SL: 18th

MIDDLESEX



again.

The news that Wisder acclaimed them the most successful Championship team of the past 50 years and the near-miss of an eighth title in 20 years las season will make Middlesex eager to start

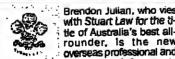
As this all happened when the team was being rebuilt, optimism is justified. However, 1996 will be equally transitional. John Emburey has gone and a cricketer of his stature, ability and wisdom will not be eas-

But a new opening partnership is in place, Dion Nash is gaining experience daily and forms a useful seam-bowling line-up with Gus Fraser and Richard Johnson and the batting, if Mark Ramprakash and Jason Pooley continue in their 1995 form, will make enough runs.

This summer should also see the further emergence of Middlesex's highly promis-ing reserves, such as the left-arm spinner Umer Rashid, batsman Owais Shah and the bulliant England under-19 wicket-keeper David Nash. If injuries do strike the first team these young men may have to be promoted a year too soon, but that eventuality seems to be Middlesex's only major concern. With Warwickshire and pitches? Lancashire they will be leading contenders.

Overseas player: Dion Nash (NZ)
Last year: EAC: Runners-up; NW: QF; B&H: QF; SU: in: I Blanchett, M Evans, R Fay, D Goochild, J Hewitt, 5 Molfat, P Walland Out: J Emburey, C Taylor, T Radford, K Shine.

SURREY



rounder, is the new overseas professional and his strong left arm is bound to have an impact. With Dave Gilbert, who led Young Australia so impressively last year, in charge at The Oval, the team will be expected to show an antipodean drive, Gilbert hinting that it is not the ability but the motivation that

has been the recent weakness. Alec Stewart will be able to call on Martin Bicknell, Joey Benjamin and Tony Pigott, and everyone expects a challenge from the fastest pitches in the country, Surrey's seam attack could evoke a few glonous memories. Richard Pearson, the former Cambridge and Essex off-spinner Athey, Lenham and Speight offer a good strengthens the weakest department in

which Richard Nowell, the promising slow left-armer is expected to progress. remy Batty, will still be needed for the four-day garnes. Peter Bowler and Richard Harden need to continue their of Stewart and Greham Thorpe; if Adam Hollicake, the new vice-captain, Ally Brown and Mark Butcher have matured there will be plenty of runs. Surrey might also have an ace (or maybe a deuce) up the

training programme fit and well. est year: BAC: 12th; NW: 2nd rd; B&H: 3rd group

In: B Tulkin (Aus), 8 Hollioake, C Lewis, P Pearson, Out: C Rackemann (Aus). O Shoper



A lot to live up to: Shaun Pollock follows in illustrious footsteps at Warwickshire

impressive but as so often with the small print the overall impact can

Oce-day cricket, as demonstrated with the 18 counties and their refusal so spectacularly in the World Cup, to change the structure. has come of age. It has all but settled into a world-wide pattern after something like 20 years of tinkering with the rules; at its best it can oow provide a contest of skills and tactics

worthy of the first-class game. The latest innovations - only two fielders outside a 30-yard circle for the first 15 overs and only five fielders on the leg side at any time - have been the best. Sri Lanka demonstrated by their sheer audacity in flaying the new-ball bowlers that it was almost possible to win a match with-

in those first 15 overs. In response, fielding captains delayed their best seamers and used spinners who, in turn, were forced to revive the long-forgotten art of buying wickets, tempting batsmen into trying to clear the infield.

The new rules will be seen in operation this summer in both the Benson and Hedges Cup and the Texaco Trophy internationals. Both competitions will be played under the International Cricket Council rules: 50 overs per side, one interval. Will county captains bowl spinners at the start? And will spinners get any semblance of turn on early covered

The Championship, as most have agreed for the past 25 years, needs sharpening and tightening up. to make it both more attractive and more competitive. So this year the leading players will miss up to eight of the 18 fixtures while engaged in

SUSSEX



new coach. Vastert Drakes the overseas professional and Martin Speight, almost the most exciting batsman of 1994. s fit again. Alan Wells can be optimistic as he starts his fifth summer as captain. Franklyn Stephenson will certainly be missed, not least for the unique de ery which was so slow it appeared to be going backwards. Drakes will take time to catch up but his second-team performances have been impressive.

Backed by Giddins, Jarvis and Lewry, Sussex have seam for all seasons. Ian Sal-Alex Tudor. On what might turn out to be isbury remains England's best leg-spinner and Sussex hope that off-spinner Nicky Phillips will complete the attack. The biggest concern is the batting

start but more consistency will be sought from Greenfield, Hall and Newton. Robin Martin-Jenkins, 20 and 6ft 5in, may make an impact as an all-munder. Haynes says his mentor as coach was Clive Lloyd, so any six-foot plus bowler can expect quick promotion.

Sussex will be one county to have a new Cricket Board in operation this summer have an ace (or maybe a deuce) up the and their experiences will be watched with interest by other clubs.

Overseas player: Vasbort Drakes (VIII) Last year: BAC: 15th NW: 2nd rd. B&H; Sin Croup D. SL: 10th in: V Drakes, R Rac.

The changes to the summer six Test matches in a split series game this year may oot look too against India and Pakistan, and no less than six Texacos. The fault lies not, as the television presenters

keep telliog us, with Lord's, but

There has been some tinkering. though. There will be fewer outright results in the Championship after the decision to award three points for a draw: giving some purpose to stubborn resistance from a team which cannot win. Sides will now have to bowl only 104 overs in the day, instead of 110, with 96 on the last day, and the minimum number of overs in the last hour comes down from 20

Just as we had got accustomed to the idea that Championship cricket starts on a Thursday, several matches this season will start on a Wednesday and, from next year most of them will. This may turn out to be one of those good intentions that pave the road to hell.

A Thursday start means an interruption on Sunday for a 40-over game, an interval which is hugely disliked by the players and which often leaves them, and the Championship game, totally flat by Monday morning. Professional cricketers may play less first-class cricket than they did in 1955 but there seems little doubt that their expenditure of adrenalin, if such a measurement could be made, is now very much higher.

Another plus is that a Wednesday start means a Championship game will finish on a Saturday, which gives more midweek match time, which is when the sponsors want to entertain

But Wednesday starts also means

MAIN FIXTURES

Britannic Assurance County Champorchip begin 5 Are Equity and Lew Sunday League begins 23 ENGLAND V INDIA 1st Texaco Trophy one-day int (The Oval) 25 ENGLAND V INDIA

2nd Texaco Trophy one-day ent (Headingle) 26 ENCLAND V NOIA 3rd Tesses Trophy one-day are sOld Traffords 28 Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-finals

ALDING V CHALDING OL-8 1st Combel Test (Edgbeston) L. Berson and Hedges Cup semi-finels 2nd Control Test (Lord's) 25 NatWest Trophy 1st round ARY

LA FINGLAND V INDIA 10 NatWest Trophy 2nd round 3 Berson and Hedges Cup final firms () 25-29 ENGLAND Y PAKISTAN List Countril Test (Lord's)

-12 ENGLAND V PAKISTAN

2nd Comhill Test (Headingley)

13 Nativest Trophy semi-finals 3rd Coming Test (The Over) Ist Texano Trophy one-day art (Old Trafford) 2nd Texaco Trophy one-day not (Edglassion) SEPTEMBER

ENGLAND V PANISTAN 3rd Teases Trephy one-day est (Trent Bridge) Notices: Taxable foral (Lord's) 15 Are Squity and Law Sunday Leogue finis 19 Courty Championship final matches

Saturday finishes, if games stretch that far - the day that was traditionally most favoured by county members. It may be that county members are now regarded as dispensable. The cold fact is that mem-

bedrock of the county clubs. Sponsors, and Test-match income, are more valued. Nine counties, instead of five can now win Championship prize money. Seven counties, a high proportion, have changed captains: Derbyshire under Dean Jones might be

at their most flamboyant since Eddie Barlow's day: Yorkshire uoder David Byas dour winners; Northamptonshire under Rob Bailey more circumspect; Leicester shire uoder James Whitaker surprising: Hampshire under John Stephenson more orthodox: Glamorgan under Matthew Maynard less Welsh and Nottinghamshire under Paul Johnson reckless.

The new overseas professionals are at Durbam where Sherwin Campbell will open with something of the flamboyance of Wayne Larkins; Essex, who await Australia's oewest allrounder Stuart Law; Lancashire taking a chance on South African allrounder Steve Elworthy; Warwickshire, taking no chance at all on Shaun Pollock; Somerset, bappy with the promise of Australian all rounder Shane Lee: and Surrey who thought they had Brian McMillan but who now have Brendon Julian of Australia.

There are even changes at the MCC, who report their famous "bacon and egg" colours are in fact registered as canary yellow and carnival

WARWICKSHIRE



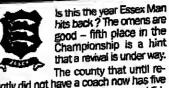
is this the last year of the Reeve era? The motiva tor, who is perhaps the most astute captain in county cricket since Raymond Illingworth, has signed only a one-year contract. Can he

add to five trophies in two summers? The world-class overseas professionals Brian Lara and Alian Donald have gone, cessor, the prospectively world-class Shaun Pollock, Roger Twose, an Invalu able contributor, is now a New Zealan der, but there are high hopes of two young batsman, Wasim Khan and Anurae Singh, in a powerful batting order.

A new fast bowler, Mike Edmond, English-qualified from Sydney, has been signed, Nell Smith is an England-allrounder and Ashley Giles's left-arm soin blossomed last season. It would be absurd to suggest that Warwickshire will not miss Lara or Donald but they are probably better-equipped than any club to flourish without them. A hat-trick of Championships (plus a few one-day baubles is not an outrageous thought.

They have taken changes of their over-seas star and coach, Phil Neale for Bob Woolmer, in their stride. Replacing Reeve might be an altogether stemer challenge Captain: Dermot Reeve Oversoas player: Shaun Potock (SA)

Last year: BAC: Champions; NW: Winner; B&H: 3n In: M Edmond, M Wagh, S McDonald, S Poliock (SA). Out: R Dens, A Din, A Donald, R Iwose



cently did not have a coach now has five with the addition of Geoff Arnold and Eddie Hemmings as bowling consultants. The new generation of players, spear-headed by Nasser Hussain and Ronnie Irani, is moving confidently as the veterans ride into the sunset. Well, not quite. Graham Gooch is 42, a

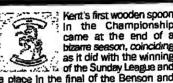
Test selector, and talking about coaching, John Childs is 45 and indestructible. nong interesting newcomers are Paul Grayson, who can open the innings and bowl slow left-arm, Giles Goodwin, another slow left-armer from Felsted and Tim Hodgson, a left-handed opener from

Another established fast bowler is needed to support Mark liott but the spin department, with Childs and Peter Such leading, is better than most. Paul Prichard, an unassuming but well-

schooled captain will welcome Stuart Law, one of Australia's leading all-rounders and a powerful player in limited-overs matches. Essex could well appear in a one-day final.

ain: Paul Pnchan Last year: BAC: 5th; NW: 2nd rd: B&H; 4th group C; SL Sth inc P Grayson, S Law (Aus), G Goodwin, T Hodgso P Stephens, J Powell,

KENT



Hedges Cup. Perhaps a psychiatrist was needed

Kent optimists will point out that the fastbowler injury syndrome, a subject of some meriment in other dressing-rooms, must have passed its peak. If it has, and Dean Headley, the star of the England A winter tour to Pakistan, Martin McCague, Alan Igglesden and the re-turning Duncan Spencer manage to last a full season, things might change. Fit fast bowlers would take some of the strain off Min Patel while the return of

Carl Hooper brings considerable all-round Having said that, the marvellous batting of the Sri Lankan genius Aravinda da Silva is bound to be be missed. Despite that, the batting remains strong and enerprising however, and Kent must be a threat again in the one-day competitions.

Their traditionalist members will also expect to see a county with a proud record back in the top half of the Championship Captains Mark Benso

Overseas player: Carl Hooper (WI) Last year: BAC: 18th, NWT: 2nd rd. B&H; Runners-up. SL: Champions

bers' subscriptions are no longer the In: C Hooper (WI).



One of the less publicises but most pleasing of the advances made by but most pleasing of the Northamptonshire in recent years has been the increasing number of na-

tive-born first-class players. The team that was once half-Tyke, half-Geordie Is now one-third home-grown with a thriving nursery: three of this year's England under-19 squad of 20 are products. The new captain, Rob Bailey, is Stafford-shire-born but this is his 14th summer

at Wantage Road. There should be no friction with the man who could have been captain, Alan Fordham; both are players whose first loyalty is to the team. The departing captain Allan Lamb, must he missed but he leaves in the knowledge that he has brought the county to the brink of achievement. Anii Kumbia, master spinner, must also be missed and the season will revolve around the returning Curtly Ambrose's appetite for wickats on mundane county momings.

The batting remains quick-scoring in all conditions, the seam bowling is varied and penetrative. But the spinners? Another summer like last could find the attack wanting, which is why new coach John Emburey's registration as a play-er could be vital. Playing or coaching, he will be a terrific asset.

Overseas player; Curty Ambrose (WII Last year; BAC: 3rd: NW: Runners-up; B&H; 4th gou B; St.: 13th In: F Balley, J Embure Out: C Athins, R Batley, M Bowen, N Cook, I Dawood, M Foster, A Kumble (Ind.), A Lamb. Out: C Lewis, M Field-Buss, C Barrion

WORCESTERSHIRE



Captaine Rob Balley

Mirza at 24 set back the club's plan to build a new fast attack around him and Paul Thomas, With the rebrements of Neat Radford and, through injury, the promising Alex Wylies, a heavy burden falls upor that willing veteran Phil Newport.

The progress of Thomas, 25, Dudley born and genuinely fast, will be watched with interest; 5-70 on his debut, against West Indies, reised eyebrows - not least at Edgbaston, where he once had trials. One new quick bowler arrives, the leftarmer Almagir Sheriya who shot to fame with a hat-trick in his second match for Leicestershire in 1994 and asked to be essed last summer. Two new spinners, Jim Ralph (leg-breaks) and Matthew Rawnsley (off-breaks) have been signed and the club now have high-class cover for Steven Rhodes with the capture of the former England Under-19 wick-

et-keeper Ismael Dawood. Tom Moody, confirmed as captain and overseas professional, and Graeme Hick, will again be a partnership of peril for opposing bowlers, but Worcestershire's successes are most likely in the one-day competitions where Hick will atways be available.

Captain: Tom Moody Overseast player: Tom Moody (Airs) Last year: 98C; 10th; NW: 2nd nf: 86H: Senv-6-nets; \$1.3 and la: I Dawood, A Shenya, J Raigh, M Rawnsley, M Di-Out: O O'Otherra, N Ractord, A Wyle, C Tolley, T Ed-

GLAMORGAN



Matthew Maynard has stepped up to assume the captaincy, which allows Hugh Morns to open the batting without any distractions. Maynard will be hoping to improve even upon Glamorgan's glorious start last season when

they won six successive matches in all competitions. The batting is strong and will get stronger still if David Hemp and Adnan Dale build on their undoubted promise. There is, though, concern about the bowling now that Roland Lefebyre has been forced to retire by a World Cup injury. The old firm of Steve Watkin, Steve Barwick and Robert Croft is still profitable,

What that worthy trio need is another class performer to back them up, and Giamorgan are lucky that they have a number of possible candidates - Darren Thomas, the England Under-19 offspinner Gareth Edwards and the new slow left-armer from Millfield, Dean

The county now own Sophia Gardens in Cardiff, where Yorkshire are the first visitors, so the South Wales Echo probably has the haadline "Taffs Stuff Tykes" already set and ready to run.

Captain: Matthew Maynard nas player: Ottis Gibson (Wi) Last year: BAC: 16th. NW: SF. B&H: 3rd Group C.

Out: O Phelps, G Rees, A Roseberry LANCASHIRE



How Lancashire will react to the loss of their into the loss of their inspirational coach David Lloyd to England's cause and the mighty Wasim Akram to the touring

ERTH

Section 1.

Frank 1.

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POLIKE:

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Pakistanis Is the key question . On the field the team will function much as before: Mike Watkinson as captain backed up by a brains trust of Mike Atherton, Neil Fairbrother (a former captain). John Crawley, Jason Gallian and Peter Martin.

Wasim's replacement, the South African all-munder Steve Elworthy is an unknown quantity. The Old Trafford square is not, however. Peter Maron's square offers more top-class pitches than almost anywhere in the country and will be crucial to the Test ambitions of three more Lancashire bowlers: Glen Chapple, Gary Keedy and Gary Yates. Add a back-to-form Warren Hegg and you have a team worth backing in all four competitions. Even if England were to choose even player they could, Lancashire would still have a strong supporting cast, with the likes of Nick Speak, Graham Lloyd, Ian Austin, Steve Titchard all battling for places. The England under-19 allrounder Andrew Flintoff will also press-

ing his claims hard. rseas player: Steve Elworthy (SA) Last year: BAC: 4th. NW: QF. B&H: Winners SL:

In: S Esworthy (SA), J Haynes, O Ridgeway,

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Out: Wasım Akram (Pak), A Barnett, N Harvey, D



Ending last summer with six successive Champi onship defeats left Trent Bridge smouldering and the departing captain. Tim Robinson, wondering

what had gone wrong with a season which began with so much hope. Too much depended upon the partnership of Chris Caims and Chris Lewis, but the latter, Injured again, left in mid-summer and Caims, womed about the wear and tear of year-round cricket, had to be persuaded to sign on again. The batting, too, was over-dependent upon the ever-reliable Robinson and his

now manager, has signed Ashley Met-calfe to strengthen the line-up and Chris Tolley the bowling. There were encouraging signs last year: Usman Afzaal and Noel Gie both played for England under-19 while the other leftarm spinner, Jimmy Hindson, was only just pipped as the Young Cricketer of the

successor, Paul Johnson, Alan Ormrod.

Year by Andrew Symonds. Once it was said that visitors to Nottingham had to face Rice, Hadlee and Allsopp. The groundsman has followed the all-rounders into retirement, but Notts will hope that his Merlin-like talent to change the weather to suit the team has been inherited by Frank Dalling. Captain: Paul Johnson

Overseas player: Chins Cauns (NZ) Last year: BAC: 11th; NW: 2nd rd; B&H: QF; SL: 11th n: A Metcalfe, C Tolley, J Hart, M Bowen, G Wel-

"Three lions and a crown

on your sweater won't

guarantee your placa.

YORKSHIRE



was the blum warning from new captain David Byas, Like all North Riding farmers. Byas believes in hard graft and with a regiment of England Under-19 players clamouring for a chance he will have every excuse to make changes. Yorkshire have rarely had as many promising young quick bowlers and all three capped seamers, including Darren Gough, are under threat. The weakness is in spin, where Gary Keedy's departure in 1994 left a gap which has still to be filled. The mercurial Richard Stemp will bowl most overs and lan Fisher (slow left-arm) and Gareth Batty (off-spin) will get more exposure but Byas will be hoping that Michael Vaughan will advance with his off-breaks and he also has his vice captain Michael Bevan to bowl slow left-arm extraordinary. Anthony McGrath's emergence means that Richard Blakey, once an England prospect at No 4, may have to drop to seven. Yorkshire have not often lacked ability over the last 30 years, just temperament and attitude. Can Byas change that? What is certain is that the first team will

be under pressure and the only way to keep places will be by winning. Captain: David Byas Overseas player: Michael Beven (Aus)
Lest year: BAC: 8th; NW: SP; 8841: QF; 3L: 12th
In: G Batty, I Pisher, M Hoggard, P Hutchson, R Sidebattorn, M Wood.

Out: A Metcalfe, S Milburn, P Grayson, S Kelleti

LANCASHIRE

Moore lifts his hat to Klairon

Racing

RICHARD EDMONDSON reports from Punchestown

Backing winners is not the singie greatest problem at the Punchestown Festival Achievement is getting home without a small plastic bag full of either fruit or ebocolate biscuits.

The Co. Kildare course, like many others in Ireland, altracts peripatetic vendors, mostly women, who sell their wares outside the course. This phalanx of head-scarved elderly figures. who supervise grocery-laden carts last scen carrying Eng-land's medieval dead, may look innocuous but, by God, they are difficult to pass.

Their presence humanises Punchestown's main meeting, which began yesterday, and makes it a touch more realistic than, say, Royal Ascot, When-ever I attend the Berkshire meeting, the British equivalent of these women seems to he at a different entrance.

There is a relaxant also in the Irish attitude towards neckwear. A must on Albion's racecourses, where the pressure is to check the Windsor knot ers Cup, the British come here every 20 minutes, Ireland ap- as an afterthought and conse-

pears to be in the throes of a tie blight.

Inextricably linked with Irish racing too is an ecclesiastical theme. Foremost in this area is Father Sean Breen, who has not

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Johnnie The Joker (Southwell 3.00) NB: Dorlin Castle

missed a Cheltenham Festival for 20 years. Fr Breen is the parish priest at Eadestown, close to Punchestown, and just one newspaper per day plops its way on to the mat at his parochiat house. It is the Rac-

Ycsterday, Fr Brcen conducted mass and then another session before his followers in a hospitality unit at the course.

He had plenty to talk about. Punchestown, because of its timing, may never be the third major Festival it aspires to be after Cheltenham and Aintree, hut it stages racing of quality and variety, with one race yesterday, the Brown Thomas Chase, run over banks, walls and ditches. Much like the Breed-

(Perth 3.10)

ing Post.

in North America.

icap Chase.

quently gain the same results as ly £270,000 despite the fact that he is only seven years old. In terms of youthful remuner-Yesterday, Nick Henderson's Kimanicky was well beaten in ation, he has only Shirley Tem-

his event and the trio of the ple ahead of him. great under-achiever Coulton, Arthur Moore, the gelding's Nakir and Sound Reveille were trainer, has had some good embarrassed in the main conhorses in his time (and whentest of the day, the BMW Handever they have won races he has employed the camera-friendly This, however, did not deflect tactic of putting his hat between from a stunning performance by the Queen Mother Champion their ears) but he now concedes that Klairon Davis is the best of

Chase winner, Klairon Davis, the lot. "He's a fantastic horse," he said yesterday, "He's a beautiful, keen, sound horse to train; such a joy and today he was blooming. His coat hasn't

looked so good all year." This was Klairon Davis's 14th win, his seventh chase victory after a bumper and six hurdles, and his best ever jumping performance moved Moore to new levels of rapture. "He's not just the best I've ever trained, be's the hest most people have ever trained," he said.

Britain gets another chance

this afternoon, when its fore-Gruff are also components of a most competitor in the richest formidable field, but their task race of the day, the Heineken is no more difficult than that fac-Gold Cup, appears to be the taling Go-Informal and Karshi in ented mare Sister Stepbanie. the novice hurdle. They have to Her last victory was in the ro-bust arms of Graham McCourt, match strides with Aidan O'Brien's Urubande, who has already been backed for the who has since switched roles to become a trainer and she will 1997 Champion Hurdle.

ters it is more likely to be with a congratulatory slap than his much-feared whip.

appreciate the fact that when

McCourt now attends her quar-

Lord Of Men breaks pelvis

> The John Gosden-trained Lord Of Men, who was being prepared for the French 2,000 Guineas and Derby, has frac-



The double bank at Punchestown yesterday cleims Mr Barney, while No Mistake VI (extreme right) lives up to his name and goes on to win

PERTH

2.40 Highland View 3.10 Dorlin Castle 3.40 Parsons Boy

4.10 Tom Brodie

HYPERION 4.40 East Houston 5.10 Welsh Mill 5.40 Cattly Hang

GOING; Hurdles - Cood to Soft; Chases - Soft.

Right-hand course with sharp turns, Run-in 280yd.

Course to in Scotte Palace Park, 4m N of town on ASS, Perth station (service from Dundee)

4m. ADMISSION: Members \$15; Tattersallo & Paddock \$7 (OAPs & disabled \$4); Course
\$22. CAR PARK: \$5 for piculc ares, including maximum of 4 adults, rest free. SIS

M LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: Mrs M Reveley — 23 winners from 51 runners gives a success ratio of 45.1% and a profit to a £1 level stake of £13.36; M Hammond — 21 winners, 79 runners, 26.0%, +56.23; G Richards — 19 winners, 118 runners, 16.1%, -527.42; N Twiston-Davies — 18 winners, 33 runners, 48.5%, +535.50.

■ LEADING JOCKEYS: P Niven — 30 winners, 82 rides, 36.6%, +50.17; M Dwyer — 14 winners, 70 rides, 20%, -\$0.69; A Dobbla — 12 winners, 63 rides, 18.5%, +56.55; B Storey — 12 winners, 126 rides, 9.5%, -\$38.34.

B SUNKERED FIRST TIME: Steading Elite (4.10),
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: The Whole Hog (5.40), Storm Drum (3.10) & Perphyrics
(5.10) sent 411 miles by K Bailey from Lambottur, Berks; Bodfari Producer (5.40), Golden
Draw (2.40) & Pather O'Brien (3.10) sent 307 miles by J Edwards from Selinck, H'fords.

П	240	Party has started maiden hurdle (class e) (div i
Н	2.70	PARTY HAS STARTED MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV I £2,500 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £2,108
1 3	PF4F03	BARNSTORMER (11) (E Biott) E Biott 10 11 7D Parker (3)
[2	OP6P	CORSTON JOKER (6) (A S Lyturn) L Lungo 6 11 7
1 3	1-500	GOLDEN DRUM (102) (Howard Parker) J Edwards 6 11 7
1 4	50	HESHLAND VIEW (67) (R.W.L. Bowden) J.H. Johnson 6 11 7
1 5	500023	JONAEM (18) (Mrs Evelyn Slock) Mrs E Slock 6 11 7
1 8		SCALLYMAC (100) Ucho Vencto P Beaumont 7 11 7
1 7	6-00305	STRONGALONG (33) (J.A. Stephenson) P Chresbrough 6 11 7
18	00/F-	FULL OF CHA7 (446) (Mrs S McNichol) J Brieft 7 11 2
(9	0G-54P	MORE CHAMPMENE (36) (There Cork Poppers) Mrs D Thomson 6 11 2 A Walterink (7)
lı	0	WHITEMOSS LEADER (Whyamoss Golf Syndicate) J Barcley 6 11 2
	1 44046P	COOL STEEL (42) (H 9 Hewit) Mrs J Brown 4 11 0
1	2	WASSL STREET (B Leatherday) K Morgan 4 11 0
١ -		- 42 declared -

= 12 declared =

BETIMS: 5-2 Wassi Street, 5-1 Golden Drum, 6-1 Jouwen, 8-1 Highland View, Bernstowner, 10-1
More Champagne, Corston Joker, 12-1 others
1995: Pomorie 4 10 4 F Leshy 7-1 If W Payne) 15 ran
FORM GUIDE

CORSTON JOKER hung before being pulled up at Ayr last week, but presumably the problem was not too serious for him to be out again so soon. He was previously sixth to Our
Robert at Wetherby (2m), where he was staying on to linish only three lengths behind subsequent winner Harn Witges. Len Lungo, his majner, won this in 1993 and 1994. Golden
Drum began this term with a close fifth in a bumper at Herrford. That and his bumper win
here in May show he runs well without a recent outing and, as John Edwirds has had a couple of warners recently, Golden Drum may do better than on his hurdled debut in January.
Jonaom's recent runs in handleaps show he can win a little race, but he was beaten in a
seller two races ago and may trave to settle for a place.

Selection: CORSTON JOKER

who took his earnings to near-3.10 BALLATHIE HOUSE HOTEL AMATEURS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 3m 110yds Penalty Value £3,402 130030 FATHER C'ERREN (36) (CD) Was G Jersanson) I Fowards 8 11 12 _____ Mr 9 Poins (7)

	-U-23	CALLERSON (23) (EXXIS OF THE AREA WE'R 9 LEMB) U LEMB 6 11 8
	0-20336	DOCKMASTER (14) U O Conton) Mess M Malegan 5 11 5
	F62454	STORM DRUM (16) (D) (BF) (Mrs Snelley Fergusson) K Bailey 7 11 5 Mr A Parlier (7) 9
	303000	GRACE CARD (67) (CD) (G A Famdon) R Woodhouse 10 11 2
	1P-FF05	DORLIN CASTLE (71) (Mrs O C Greet L turgo 8 11 0
	4-P4021	NEW TRADE (8) (D) (J Mason) J Brieft 5 10 12 (Sed
	000,055	NACHOLAS PLANT (4) (Mrs LI F Paterson) Golde 7 10 10
	000500	BREEF RELINION (11) (Ares N F Thesigen 5 hettlewelf 5 10 10Mrs 0 Kettlewelf (7)
ı	312/0-05	MAJORRY MAJOR (15) (John R Jones) P Cheestrough 7 10 10
	360104	D'ARBLAY STREET (16) (BF) (Green For Lucky W Years) 7 10 C., Mr M H Haughton (7) &
	360-344	THE LAUGHING LORD (50) (C) (P Russell) Miss L V Russell 10 10 6 Mins 5 Foundar (7)
		and the same of th

12: 200-344 THE LAUGHING LORD (60) (C) (F Russel) Mess L V Russel 10 10 5....May 5 Founter (7)
3 4-16001 SEBERA MADRONA (47) (D) (Fernier Range) Mes A Suptania 8 10 1....Mr M Coglen (7)
BETTING: 7-2 Stores Drown, 9-2 Now Titles, 6-1 Octomaster, Futher O'Brien, 8-1 Brief Resision, DorIn Castle, 10-1 The Laughing Lord, D'Arbhyy Street, 12-1 others
1995; Father O'Brien 8 9 7 Mess P Rotson 6-1 IJ Edwards 10 ran

FORM GUIDE Things have not gone right for DORLIN CASTLE over fences this season, but his frith behind Things have not gone night for DORLUN CASTLE over fences this season, but his fight behind Parsons Boy at Kelso in February shows he still has ability. He wan twice over three miles in the mud at Catterick last season and hos conditions in his lawour now that he is back poer hundles. Not that he is the only one sured by three miles and plenty of cur. The closest that Doelconsister has come to wroning a race was when he finished third to Carley Lad and thor V at Newcastle. Dockmaster is notion by Paulina Robson, who won jast year's race on Fa-ther O'Brion, although he was at the other and of the habiticap then, and might be pushed to give away the weight on this testing ground. Storing Drimm's second to Cool Clown at Lexes-ter Climit in January was nor histay depose but that were in claiming and he has been from years. ter (3m) in January was on heavy going, but that was a claimer and he has been found want-ing in handicaps since. Nicholas Plant has a bit to prove when it comes to staying this trip but is in good shape judged on his fifth to Penny A Dev at Avr on Saharday when 19th our is in good shape judged on his fifth to Penny A Day at Ayr on Satur tougher than the non-handicap soller he won at Herham last week. Selection: DORLIN CASTLE

3.40 GLENGOYNE MAIT TAMEROSIA SERIES FINAL (CLASS C) (NOVICE CHASE) £10,000 3m Penalty Value £6,908

1	651111	PARSONS BOY (32) (D) (5 Ridge) G Richards 7 11 12
2	116211	ROCKET RUM (25) (P J 5 Russell Mess L V Russell 8 11 12
3	21F232	MINE BOX BRLY (44) (BF) (Beraldo Portnersho) P Monterth 8 11 9
4	UO-4211	HOWCLEUCH (15) (The Howcleuch Partnership) J Oliver 9 11 7B Storey
5	/5/0005	BECKLEY FOUNDAM (37) () Henderson (Co Durhami)) H Johnson 8 11 5
6	3204P3	SEERONG GOLD (5) (Gay) J Barday 7 11 0
		- 6 dectared -

- 6 declared - 7 declared - 7 declared - 8 de

River Lossie and Billygoat 4.10 ALBERT BARTLETT & SONS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £6,000 added 2m 110yds Peneity Value £4,124

4.40 SHEPHERD & WEDDERBURN HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D)

_		17,000 added 2th 4t 130yds retailly value 15,030
L	33-PP1U	DARK DAWN (26) (CD) (MS J M Newt) Ms J Brown 12 11 10Mr 5 Swiets
2	3034ZP-	FOUR DEEP (382) (The Braw Partnership) J H Johnson 8 10 9
3		DANTE'S INVERNO (37) (CD) U Bractume) Mrs 5 Brachume 10 10 6. Mr M Brachume [7)
4	U31P23	EAST HOUSTON (47) (High green Pastrersho) J O'Neil 7 10 5
5	63-1112	STORMY CORAL (33) (D) (Raymond Anderson Green) C Parker 6 10 5
5	051211	LAST REFUGE (378) (D) (Mrs V Chitori) 7 Cart 7 105.
7	394-634	WAYLPHILL (33) (D) (D Photon) J J O'Neil 9 10 4 A Roche (3)
3	31P413	HAG'S WAY (11) (Auto Alumo O'Sulfasari) M Toghumer 6 10 0 B Handing
•		POTATO MAIN (37) (D) (Ches Foster) 8 Disson 10 10 0
10	P6003-P	DEADLINE (9) (D) (S Chapeck) S Chadwick 13 10 0F Perrett B
		- 10 declared -

— 10 declared —

Minimum welfit: 10st. The handeop welfits: Hag's Kby 9st 13th, Posto Man 9st 2h, Dealline 8st 9th.

Bettinne: 7-4 Stormy Coral, 5-1 East Houston, 6-1 Hag's Way, 7-1 Wayuphill, 8-1 Four Deep, Lest
Reflage, 12-1 Dark Dawn, 16-1 others

1995: Basicus 6-10-11 Richard Guest 11-4 (Mrs S Smith) 7 ran

FORM SUNDE

STORMY CORAL was lucky to complete the hat-inck at Ayr in January, because he broke a
blood vessel and was held in thard until Juke Box Bithy and Rocket Rum fell at the last. Oth
cawsa, Stormy Coral has done little wrong the season and fasted by inches to catch anoth
er progressive handicapper, Emerald Storm, at Kelso a month ago. One of the chief threats

have is the Kelso fourth, the ex-lish mare Wayuphill. 5to better of with Stormy Coral and

who would have finished closer but for being hampered at the second last. Wayuphill might

have struggled to stay the distance (3m 11) at Kelso — her Faryhouse win was over the sort

of distance — and we may not have seen the best of this mars, lighty-raced sence corning

from ireland. Like Stormy Coral and Wayuphill, Hagfs Way goes well with plenty of give in

the ground. Three and a quarter miles might have been too for for him when he was third

to Brangalica at Newton Abbot last time the struggled in two previous sitterips over three

miles or more), but this is his first run for a different yard, that of Martin Todhunter.

Selection: STORMY CORAL

tured his pelvis in work and will PUNCHESTOWN 4.05 (BMW Chase): 1 (KAIRON DAVIS (F Woods) 5-2 g-tex; 2. Sound Man 5-2 g-tex; 2. Sound Man 5-2 g-tex; 2. Opera Hat 8-1. a ress. Naiv; (4th), Coulton fur), Sound Revelle (pu), Strong Platnum fiell. 10, 4/2. IA Moore), Yotes £3.50; £1.90, £1.50, £1.20, RF; £4.60, CSF; £9.22, 7nc-ast; £30.61, Tho: £7.80, be absent until at least the autumn. Beech Road, the Champion Hurdler of 1989, has been

retired by Toby Balding at the age of 14. 5.10 MOET & CHANDON NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added

2m 110yds Penalty Value £2,402

1 Silver Poarl 1995: Know-No-No 6 11 O P Niven 5-2 (M Hammond) 7 ran FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

WELSH MILL, was runner-up to several decent nonces before getting the better of Thursday Night (winner since) in good style of Wetterby lest time. Astrail Weeks has not shown much in two big fields of novices at Newcastle but has been running well in handicaps on the Flat. Porphyrios has not sparked since he came back from a three-month break but presumably has been showing enough at home to justify the long trip north. He would have a enance on his early-season form, which includes a good third to Sparky Gayle and Abbot Of Furness in 9 handicap at Ayr on his last visit to Sextand.

Selection: WELSH MILL.

5.40 PARTY HAS STARTED MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV II) £2,500 added 2m 4f 110yds Penaity Value £2,094 53-0652 CATTLY HANG CIGO AV G N Morrord J Lewis 6 11 7

•	~~~~	COLD IN SECOND AND IN INTERIOR A PORTION OF A CONTROL OF THE PROPERTY OF THE P
2	0-R0650	FINE TUNE (46) (Timothy Harde) Mrs 5 Bradhume 6 11 7
3	252282	AUBRAN (USA) (18) Mrs Elve Scullion) I Dodes 10 11 7
4	00/9	SOUTHEND FLUTTER (1289) ON 8 Mason) N Mason 9 11 7S Resorth (7)
5	00-5PP	THE WHOLE HOG (87) (Mrs Sharon C Nelson) K Bailey 7 11 7A Thornson
6		BLOOMING SPRING (11) (Capt Ben Coutes) Mes D Thomson 7 11 2 O'Hara
7	206-054	BODIFARI PRODUCER (100) (Tristone Lodge Stud) J Edwards 6 11 2
8		ISLANDREAGH (H R C Catrenatod) G Richards 5 11 2
9	6-5506	MARTHA BUCKLE (16) (Andrew Paterson) J Golde 7 11 2
10	6/0-303	STYLISH ROSE (23) (I McDonagh) P Cheesbrough 6 11 2 R Supple
11		YOUNG GALA (74) (Mrs S McNichol) J Berket T 112 J Burket
_		- 11 declared -

— 11 declared — EETTWR: 11-4 Cody Hung, 7-2 Juhran, 8-2 Inlandrough, 7-1 The Whole Hog, 8-1 Stylich Rose, Bod-tarl Producer, 16-1 Bloowing Spring, 20-1 others

Islandreagh, who was also entered in the pravious race, would not have to be outstanding to make her presence fet, but the experience that CATILY HANS has acquired in four nots thus season gives him the edge. Second to Wall Mest Wind at Utumeter last time, Catoly Hang to doing better with every race. It was soft when he ran third to Feldspar at Nothingham in is doing better with every race. It was son when he ran third to readspar at violating and make he had a chance of sching on this surface, butters have a chance of sching on this surface, butters have shown he is capeptle of winning a novice hurdle but may profer faster going. The speed that won him races on the Flat could be a deciding factor. The Whole Heg comes into the reckoning on the strength of his fifth of 17 behind Sierra Madrona at Ayr (3m) in November, while Styllat Roose will surely be too strong for most of these if she runs as well as she did on her reappearance at Newcastle in February. A staying-on third to Circus Line in that two-miler, she can cope with cut in the ground and shoped as though she would be suited by the step in to this ron.

Selection: CATU MANG

Len Lungo and Tim Reed, his stable jockey for the past four sea. sons, are parting company. Announcing the amicable split yester-day, Lungo paid tribute to the loyal service that 34-year-old Reed had given his Carrutherstown yard. But Reed's battle with the scales bas caused problems for both parties, and Lungo is now on the lookout for a younger an

RACING RESULTS

CHEPSTOW 2.10: 1. FOOLS ERRAND (A P McCoy) 2-1 , 2. The Go Ahood 9-4; 3. Lyrical Seni 50-1. 2.10: 1. POOLS ERRAND (A P McCoy) 2-1
30: 22. The Go Ahead 9-4; 3. Lyrical Seel 50-1
10: ran. 7, 23. (G Baiding), 7ote: £2.90; £1.40,
£1.40, £10.20, Dust Foreleast: £3.70, Computer Straight Foreleast: £6.96, froc £96.20,
2.40: 1. SPARKLINNE YASMINI (A P McCoy)
30-100 far; 2. Carole's Crussider 14-1; 3.
Jaundy June 9-1, 15 ran. 3½, dat. (P Hobis),
Totne: £1.30; £1.10, £1.80, £2.20, DP:
£3.80, £5.71, D. This: £6.60, NR: Pargant,
3.10: 1. MitSS MRLLBROOK (W E Williams)
8-1: 2. Whesh Landon 10-3: 3. Opendan £6-1.
23 ran. £1.8 far Goolds Gold (44th), 25, 2½,
(D Goldsworthy), Tota: £11.10; £2.80, £1.70,
£1.70, DF: £24.20, CSF: £35.52, 7rio:
£43.10. NR: Sister Lark.
3.40: £ POURTIN NUME (F Johnson) evens

\$1.70. DF: \$24.20. CSF: £35.52. 7/to: £43.10. NR: Seter Lank.
3.40: 1. FOURTH IN LINE (# Lorrsond exerts fee; 2. Major Bagler 7.2; 3. Kissnir 3-1. 8 ren., 7 8. 0. Ecoactic, Tothe: £7.07 £1.30.
\$1.80. DF: £3.90. CSF: £4.72.
4.10: 1. HOLY STRING (C Levellyn) 1D-1;
2. Jarrassic Classic 6-1; 3. Beajamin Loncantor 2D-1; 4. Diamond Fort 2D-1; 20 rank.
9.2 fav Born Deep; 29.2.26. (N Tweston-Dasest).
Tothe: £32.10; £2.70, £1.70, £10.20, £4.80.
10: £50.80. CSF: £87.27, Tricast: £1.12.38.
Trot: £52.10; £2.70, £1.70, £10.20, £4.80.
4.40: 1. FORESTAL, (Mr. J. Jules) 5-1; 2.
Darks: The Great 9-1; 3. Mouse Bird 8-13 fea, 11. FORESTAL, (Mr. J. Jules) 5-1; 2.
Darks: The Great 9-1; 3. Mouse Bird 8-13 fea, 1.1 for: £50. NRc Fabulous Moto, Immerce, Jernestae, Mohler, Mr. Goorhilly.
\$1.00; £1.30, £1.10. DF: £11.70. CSF: £48.33, Thir £2.50. NRc Fabulous Moto, Immerce, Jernestae, Mohler, Mr. Goorhilly.
\$1.00; £1.10, £1.80, £2.20. DF: £6.80, CSF: £11.14. Trox £11.90. NRc: Millione, Proc*s Corner, Sweet Treston.
Placospot: £25.50. Quadpot: £14.90.
Place 6: £24.89, Place Sr £15.81.
FOLKESTONE

FOLKESTONE

FOLKESTUME
2.00: 1. ARTERICENCES (S. Droute) 9-1; 2. Alphan Hiddenway 5-2; 3. Manusch 11-8 tax. 10 mm. 1/n, 1/n, (M. Hentori-His), Tota: 58.90; 52.50, 6.1.00, 6.1.20, DF: 11-3.20, CSF: 531.43, Trot: 55.10, 2.30: 1. SCHARNHORST (A Daily) 10-1; 2. The Shager 8-1; 3. Office Hours 25-1, 10 mm. 11-8 fax Jeny Curona (Sri). Ni, 4. (S. Doe), Tota: 51.2.90; 52.30, 52.10, 54.20, DF: 540.40, CSF: 587.12, Trot: 51.47.90, 2.00: 1. WITHOUT FREENING Open O'Neil)

5-2; 2. Helio Dolly 15-3 far; 3. Who Told Victy 14-1, 3 ras. 1, 3. (R Harmon). Tota: £3.50; £2.00, £1.50, £2.40. DF: £5.20. CSF: £7.59. 22.00, £1.50, £2.40, DF:32.20, GS-17.55, 3.30; 1. SPOTED FAGEE (Dane O'Neit) 14-1; 2. Watch The Fire Evers far, 3. Slessed Spirit 10-3, 9 ran, 134, 24x, ff Mar, 170, 170; £16.60; £2.50, £1.10, £1.70, DF: £14.00, GSF: £27.81, Tho; £13.10,



The state of the s

4.00: 1. THE LAD Martin Dayor 4-1: 2. Coursel 8-2: 3. Birtings 11-1. 8 ran. 5-2 for Ajdar (ath. 37-1.34. (L. Mortrague Holl). Tother £5.30; £1.80, £1.10, £2.60. DF. £14.30. GSF. £22.33. Tricast: £172.29. Trac £76.80. NRs: Durham, Sospama.

4.30: 1. ASHEY HIB.1 IR Cochrand) 7-1; 3. Feat Forward Pred 20-1; 3. Jose de Florette 16-1. 13 ran. Everts for Par's Droam (60n. 1. 34/2. IR Rowel, Tother £9.70; £3.20. £8.70, £2.50. DF. £128.60. CSF. £128.79. Tricast: £1.995.60. Trac £159.10.NR: Jovie King.

5.00: 1. SAFECRACER (M. Herry) 5-2: 2. Efficacious 14-1; 3. Dangeston Princens 8-1. 12 ran. 2-1 ton Bascod (£df.), 5. 4/2. U Hits.) Tother £3.50; £2.40, £2.80, £1.90. DF. £51.20. GSF. £36.51. Tricast: £234.46. Tricz £111.00. NRs: Ballwick, Petros Preds, Sovert Said.

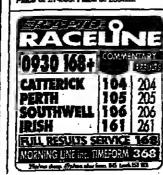
Placepot: £405.90. Quadpot: £45.70. Place 6: £196.63. Place 5: £155.21. PONTEFRACT

PONTEFRACT

2.20: 1. CAPTIAN CARAT (Caire West) 13-2;
2. Bellind Blue 8-1: 3. My Cherrywell 18-1;
4. Putraco 4-1 g-fev. 17 ran. 4-1 g fev kira
(580). 1, srt.-nd. (Mrs.) Farmaden). Tota:
15-20; 5: 130, 5: 180, 5: 2.70, 5: 170. DF:
254.90, CSF. 157.90. Theset: £554.80. Trac
1476.60, Nr. Snech.
2.50: 1. BACKDROP (J Reid) 5-4 fev: 2.
Shooting Light 20-1; 3. Kentryn's Pat 11-1
12 ran. 4, 6. (P Cherple-Hjorn). Tota: £2.30;
5: 140, 5: 91.0, 5: 160. DF: £106.40. CSF:
2:20.08. Trac: £155.10. – part won, pool of
£77.97 camed farmerd to Catterick 5: 20 today.
3.20: 1. SMART GUEST (V Fairor) 7-1; 2.
San-Duer 5-2 fex; 3. Sive Get 9-2. 8 fam. 4;
1. (J A Hards). Tota: £5.50; £2.00, £1.50,
£1.10. DF: £11.80. CSF: £23.96.
3.50: 1. MASTER CHARTER (V Fairor) 9-4

£1.10, DP: £11.90, CSP: £23.96, 3.50: 1. MASTER (MATTER (M. Fator)) 9-4 key; 2. Celestial Choir 10-1; 3. Ciliton Fox 14-1; 4. Wenthridge Lad 10-1, 19 ran. 2, ½. (Mas) J. Ramaderi), Tota: £3.60; £1.50, £1.80, £3.50, £2.10, DF: £12.30, CSP: £27.62. Incast: £273.67. Tota: £205.20, 4.30: 1, FILMOURI LESS (I), Detion) 7-2; 2. Mobile Sprinter 5-1; 3. Ladyldrick 5-1, 7 ran. 7-4 tex Sactler's Wate, 5, 1½. (I, Cuman). Tota: £3.80; £2.00, £2.50. DF: £17.00, CSP: £20.36. A.SO: 1. (SPPER ANDLINE CLARE & Dovid 9-2:

4.50: 1. LIPPER MOUNT CLARR IS Dojet 9-2; 2. greek Night Out 8-1; 3. Septx 5-1. 15 ran. 4-1 few Neght Out 8-1; 3. Septx 5-1. 15 ran. 4-1 few Neght (St. 12) 73; rat. 1-1 few Neght (St. 12) 74; rat. 15 ran. 15 rat. 1



HYPERION 2.20 The Institute Boy 2.50 Mill End Girl 3.20 Cross Talk (nb) 3.50 Prince Of My Heart 4.20 First Maite 4.50 Elite Force 5.20 White Plains GOING: Good to Soft: Good in places

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low for 6f when stalls far side. STALLS: (if outside; remainder inside.

Left-hand course, undulating and sharp. Not suitable for long-striding horses. Run-in 240yds.

stricting norses, suri-m 2-000s.

Racecourse is north-west of town on A6138. Darlington rall-way station is 14 miles away - bus service to course. ADMUS-SION: Chub 511; Tasterwalls 27; Course 22.60 (under 16s free into all anciosayes). CAR PASICE Members 22, remainder free. SIS CHANGE

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: MID End Girl (2.50)

wan at Thirsk on Saturday.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNESS: Subfusk (2:20), Pace It (2:50) and Johayro (4:20) have been som: 280 miles by W G M Turner from Cornon Denham, Somerson. No Pattern (8:20) has been sent 250 miles by G L Moore from Epsom, Surrey.

VISORRD PIRST TIME: Abstone Again (2.50).

2.20 BELLE ISLE APPRENTICES' LID STAKES (CLASS F) £3,450 added 5f 212yds 132414 THE RISTRUTE BOY (28) (D) (BF) Mass J Cross 8 8 11...

11 000-5 OATEY (22) Mrs J Renssien 3 5 5 Lemmy Begintor (7) 11.
12 1232 PENNY PURKES (353) J Beny 3 8 5 Lionnee Webster (5) 8
13 31000-4 SURFLISK (11) (0) W Turner 3 8 5 C Admission (3) 10
- 13 declared -= 13 secures BETTM2: 9-2 The Institute Boy, 5-1 Penny Parkes, 8-1 Locken, 7-4 Efficacy, 8-1 Georg, 10-1 Panther, 12-1 Best Kept Secret, 14-1 others.

2.50 JOCKEY CAP SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £3,000 added 270 5f

3.20 WIN WITH THE TOTE HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,250 added 1m 3f 21Ayds

CATTERICK 10 4-20112 HB11 FARM DNAICER (22) 40) W Brisbourne 5 T 11 loss 50 HM STA LA VISTA (24) (CD) M W Ensirtly 6 T 10 R Modern (7) 4 8 Aprimum weight 7st 10th. Inn the American weight Hosta La Veta 7st 9th. BETTING: 9-4 Deorge Dillagham, 3-1 Cross Talk, 6-1 Hanta La Vista, 6 1 Lowycourillions, 10-1 Hill Ferm Dameer, 12-1 No Pattern, Admirate Sc

3.50 RICHMOND CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS C) £8,000 added 3YO 1m 3f 21,4yds

4.20 SEDBURY HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,100 added 3YO 5f

022-10 GREEN BARRIES (LB) (BF) M Johnston 9 7 ____ J Weener 12 0954-10 LITTLE MOGRAMS (LB) (D) C Dwyer 9 3 _____ J Stack (S) 3 051-400 JOHNSTOD (B4) (CD) W Turner 9 2 _____ C Admensor (S) 11 9 5310- CRESSEM (21) (D) 9 Hollier bear 9 2 _____ L Debtor 1 251162 PREST MATE (B2) (D) S Bowing 8 0 _____ N Curiste 2 5 - 13 deciered -BETTING: 4-1 Green Burries, 5-1 Little Noggins, Crissons, 6-1 First Helte,

4.50 HURGILL LODGE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,100 added 3YO 7f

0054-0 MILETRIAN CITY (33) J Berry 9 0 ... SURF CRY W Hards 9 0

BETTING: 5-4 Ellin Force, 5-2 Memor Haf Satal, 7-2 Memor Boots, 12-1 Look Who's Calling, Bollin Jacob, 14-1 Falcon's Flame, 10-1 others.

5.20 SPRING HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3YO 7f 540-3 NKAPEN ROCKS (20) Capt J Wison 9 7 F Egtes 7 V ___K Pallon 3 ___J Yata 20 0500- ONGER HODGERS (221) R Whitelet 8.4 . Dean McKe

SOUTHWELL 2.00 Spencer's Revenge 2.30 CAROL AGAIN (nap) 3.00 Johnnie The Joker 3.30 Desiction 4.00 Prin-

cipal Boy 4.30 Miss Offset 5.00 Jolly Hokey DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low for 50.

BEALLS: Inside for all races.

Fibresand surface. Left-hand, sharp oval course.

Rececurse is 3 miles south-east of fown and 6 miles west of Newark at Rolleston. Rolleston Junction railway station adjoins the course. ADMISSION: Club 5.12; Tattersalls 5.6 (OAP members of course's Diamond Club 5.4, accompanied under-16s free). SIS RACING

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Spencer's Revenge (2.00). VINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Shelles Dream (4.30) has been sent 206 miles by R Simpson from West Buckland, Somerset. Monty (5.00) has been sent 178 miles by D N Chappell from Whitsbury, Harns, Smile Forever (6.00) has been sent 178 miles by J A B Toller from Whitsbury, Hants.

HYPERION

2.00 APHRODITE CLAMING GTD SWEEPSTAKES (CLASS F) (DIV I) £2,950 added 1m 322365 SPENCER'S REVENCE (11) (CD) N 7miler 7 9 10 _____ G Bard 120062 NO SUBMISSION (15) (CD) O Chapman 10 9 4 _____ 030-002 PEACEFILL REPLY (23) F Lee 8 9 4 ______ A Nicilone 8 V 305-605 SHUTTLEDOCK (23) (CD) Ms: N Macauley 5 9 4 _____ 5000-00 BATFLE COLOURS (7) (CD) Don Érron Inces 7 9 1

- 9 declared -BETTING: 5-2 Six of Bother, 9-2 Spencer's Revenge, Peacetuli Reply, 5-1 No Sulmission, 8-1 Princess Pamparity, Athinar, 10-1 others.

2.30 GREEK GOD APPRENTICE HANDICAP (CLASS G) £3,000 added 1m 4f - 9 declared -

— 9 Decirno —

Minimum weight 7st 10th. The handcap weight Shephents Rest 7st 90.

BEXTRAR 2-1 Mr Morierty, 9-4 Tempering, 9-2 Carol Again, 7-1 Instantanouss, 8-1 Adalosido, 10-1 Wadada, Shapherds Rest, 20-1 othera.

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Domino Flyer, 12-1 Merrie Le Bow, Prodent Princets, Joly Holary, 14-1
others.

Lost on the dark side of the Olympic moon

wo years ago, the fat lady cleared her throat but didn't sing. Two weeks ago, I finished second at the Olympic swimming trials, outside the qualifying time for Atlanta and a whole choir of fat ladies broke into a deafening Hallelujah Chorus.

nonal competition that hegan at the Olympic Games in Scoul in 1988. The Olympic trials that year were staged in Leeds where, to everyone's amazement, I beat Adrian Moorhouse before he went on to win the Olympic gold medal in Seoul two months later. My career would include two Cormo wealth Games.

a World Championships, a Commonwealth silver medal from the 1990 Games and a British and Commonwealth record for the 50m hreaststroke in 1992. That year I made the qualifying standard for the Barcelona Olympics, hut finished third at the trials behind Moorhouse and Nick Gillingham, Unfortunalely, as international rules allow only two swimmers per event, I was excluded, Both Adrian and Nick went

on to swim in the Olympic final. The British Olympic Association are anticipating 320 athletes will make the team for Atlanta and much

will be made of how over the moon they all are. Some will then retire. But 300 more have carried the same dreams for the same four years and will not go. Some of these will also retire and very little will be made of the darker side of the Olympic moon.

After a disappointing performance So ended eight years of interna- at the 1994 Commonwealth Games many people told me to quit and that the fat lady was in good voice. If she had been singing, I didn't recognise the tune. But their concerns did not fall on deaf ears and I had to reevaluate what I was doing and why. had to consider retirement and to continue. If I was to continue, I had to go back and answer three basic questions for success: Did I have the talent? Did I want to do it? And would my training get me there? More crucially, there was a fourth question: as a 27-year-old in a young person's sport, was I just too old?

My answers were unequivocal. Certainly f had the talent, strongly believing that the 1988 Olympics had proved my ability. And since a career can often have great highs followed by equally deep lows, I saw the disappointments of '94 as a natural part of a cycle which, as surely as spring follows winter, would he followed by success. By then I had



James Parrack first represented his country in 1988. Two weeks ago he came second in the Atlanta trials, outside the qualifying time, and now the former British record holder realises that his swimming career is over

known the bitter and the sweet taste of each and I was like a junkie craving the high of success. I knew I had more to give and rejected the thought that this was the end. I was still strongly motivated to perform my absolute hest on the higgest sporting stage in the world. The '96 Atlanta Olympics was less than two years away and that was the only place I wanted to be.

While the successes had fuelled my desire, the disappointments had forced a more mature perspective on exactly how to achieve it. To counter the depressing and austere routine of long, hard hours in the pool, I secured a part-time joh with Yorkshire Water, timetabled around my training and competitions. As an athlete who knows his sport, I had confidence in the training programme and in my own ideas on those factors which influenced success outside the pool. Furthermore,

physiological peak in his late twen-ties, and at 27 I was clearly not too old. I just wasn't ready to give up everything I'd dreamed of, hoped for and trained for. Swimming underpinned everything I did; every early night, every time I stayed relatively sober at weekends and every wellbalanced high-carbohydrate meal I ate. Without this anchored, goal-orientated life, what would I be left with? I was not ready to walk away from my dreams and retire into an unfamiliar scene. They say the great crime of humanity is not to set your targets too high and miss, but to set them too low and hit. I still had some

arrows left to shoot. Having addressed my concerns and heen given a green light, I mir-rored, signalled and manoeuvred myself back into the transatlantic motorway traffic heading for Atlanta. The reasons for success would be ob-

the male sportsman will rise to a vious and failure would be devoid of the destructive "what if" or "if onlys" which one can regret forever.

The careers of great performers appear to have all the ups and downs of a calm day on the Med. Those of many breaststrokers can resemble the choppy waters of the Atlantic and mine seem to be the stuff of surfing legend off Hawaii - some huge highs, many more equally frightening lows. I have always preferred the poetry of the melancholic's dream - on one occasion, just once, I wanted to he the best in the world. In 1990, I climbed to third in the world. Just 0.6sec away from the world record, I was close enough to touch it. But just as Salieri was gifted enough to be tortured by the effortless genius of Mozart, so swimming was playing with me. Top sports people eat a lot of bananas and on my next step I slipped on a dis-carded banana skin and suddenly the

I felt I had assembled the necessary climbing gear and I prepared a full-scale assault on the mountain of my own ambition. I didn't know that I would have spent six years trying to re-climb the clusive summit of 1990 and never quite make it. Back then I was securely roped to Moorhouse and simply followed him up. He had been an outstanding guide and inspiration to me, offering help and advice along the way and it all seemed so simple.

Adrian retired in 1992 and when I tried to find my own path to the summit, f got lost in the fog. Wan-dering in circles. I could remember the view, but not the way up. Finally, there comes a time when you have to let go and call off the search. But you have to go on too long to know that there is no more: to be certain of one's own peace of mind, rather

of one's own peace of mind, rather than to live the rest of your life wondering "what if".

And now with the 1996 Olympic trials over, my arrows are all gone. It was depressing to hear such an uplifting rendition of the Hallelujah Chours at the end of the recent of the Chorus at the end of the race; to truly have come to the end of the road and be forced to accept there is no "Big One", that the glory days be-tween '88-92 are all there was; that

I'm just not as good as I hoped I was going to be, and that, crushing though it is, I probably won't ever make the transition from being a question on A Question of Sport to answering the question on A Question of Sport.

As I grieve the passing of an enormous part of my life, the sportsman formerly known as "That Swimmer" can also look forward with confidence. The lessons I have learned in swimming are relevant to any career. To be a strongly motivated, goal orientated and highly disciplined individual, with a clear understanding of "what it takes" will be a signifi-

cant advantage to my future.

It is ironic that in the 1996 trials, I swam 0.02sec second slower than I did at the trials in 1988, with a complete roller-coaster cycle of highs and lows in between. Even though the hest bit was at the beginning, it has heen a thrilling ride.

The Olympic dream: You train as hard as you possibly can for four years and sometimes the dream comes true. f grew up as an ordinary kid in an ordinary school in an ordinary town with an ordinary swimming club. At 18, f arrived in Leeds and put in that little extra to have an extraordinary career. But you can't throw a six if you don't pick up the dice.

CHALLENGE CUP COUNTDOWN: Saturday's final marks a watershed in the game's history, says Dave Hadfield

The Cup is dead, long live the Cup



you can take Bradford Bulls and St Helens, but also between two

at Wembley,

ways of looking at this year's Silk Cut Challenge Cup final. Depending on your angle. this is either the first Wemblev of an exciting new era, or a wake

for a special event that will be special no more. In one sense, the old magic ins already good. The Coullenge Cup final as the climax of the season is a thing of the past. year - 1932 - the final went back because, while it occupies the same place in the calendar, it comes early in the new summer campaign, rather than at the

end of the traditional winter This year's competition, despite being largely played in the hiatus between two league seasons, has maintained its shape and momentum. Indeed, the profile of the Cup has benefited from having February and March to itself, not to mention the freshness that comes from the ab-

close to it, on Saturday. For all the feverish promotion of Super League, the Cup - and particularly the Wembley final - retains its grip on the imagination.

This was not always the case. The radical decision to take the final to London in 1929 was hitterly opposed in some quarters. Albert Rosenfeld, one of the game's greatest wingers and still the record try-scorer in a season, was typical of many who thought it an affront and never went to a final again.

Early-crowde howard around the 40,000 mark and for one north, to Wigan It was the post-war crowd

boom that carried Wemhley onwards and upwards, with the Bradford-Halifax final of 1949 filling the stadium for the first time. The crowd limit was set at a slightly lower level than for the foothall final on the principle that, man for man, rugby league followers were bulkier.

The post-war boom was also notable for the drawn final in over its heartland. 1954 and the world record crowd - officially 102,560, unofficially sence, after eight years, of Wigan. a lot more than that at Odsal,



home of this year's finalists. Bradford, for the replay hetween Warrington and Halifax. By this stage, the Challenge Cup final was massively out-

drawing any other rugby league match and had become not just an occasion for fans of the two finalists, but a rallying point for the game's devotees from all

National television and a game like the 1965 final between Wigan and Hunslet, then

hailed as the best ever, raised the profile of the event still further, to the extent that it was asked whether it was really healthy for it to take such priority over all other competitions.

They were hardly concerned about such niceties in 1971, however, when Leigh became the most surprising winners in Cup history, beating the un-hackable favourites, Leeds, in a final during which Syd Hynes hecame the first player to he sent off at Wembley.

Folklore has it that his "victim", the endlessly wily Alex Murphy, winked at the crowd as he was carried off on a stretcher. Whatever the truth of that, Murphy was fully recovered in time to receive the Cup from

Reginald Maudling. Although Hynes was the first to walk off Wemhley alone, the stadium had claimed a human

sacrifice three years earlier, when Don Fox, who had already won the Lance Todd Trophy as the final's best player, missed the simplest of conversions that would have given Wakefield Trinity victory over Leeds.

It was known as the Watersplash final, hut is remembered for Fox's desolation (it took him years to get over it), Eddie Waring's unusually spare and elo-quent "Poor lad!", and the inane questioning of the suffering kicker by a youthful David Coleman.

The Eighties will be remembered for the 1985 final between Wigan and Hull, beyond any question the finest and most gripping. The after-match moment of communion between the Parramatta and Australia team-mates, Brett Kenny and Peter Sterling, is my own most evocative Wembley memory.

succeeding seasons?

Much like the Government with the National Health Service. the Rugby League declares "the The sublime, effortless runCup is safe with us" without any-

one really believing them. Their mistake at headquarters is to imagine that the important thing is the month of the year in which the final is played. A final in April or May, two months into a summer season with previous rounds played as a pre-season pipe-opener based on groups, will be a betrayal of all that is good in the Cup's traditions.

Leaving windows in the Super League programme for a clean, straight knockout leading to a final in, say, August, would maintain those traditions, as well as extending a season

which is now too short. Teams which have lost four Super League matches this time have, in essence, seen their seasons end after a month. They cannot even say, in timehonoured fashion: "Ah well, there's always the Cup."

Bulls pick Hamer for Wembley

The veteran prop Jon Hamer is the surprise selection in Bradford Bulls' Wembley line-up, writes Dave Hadfield.

The 30-year-old, largely absent from the first team this year hecause of his work as a policeman, has got the vote ahead of Karl Fairbank in the starting side in Saturday's Challenge Cup final, Nathan Graham, signed from Dewsbury in November, will play full-hack and Bernard Dwyer is at hooker.

The first player to score a hattrick in the final will win £10,000, the code's largest individual prize for what would be the first in a Wembley final.

Oldham's Jason Temu and Scott Ranson are to appear at a disciplinary meeting tomorrow over incidents in which Lee Harland and Nathan Sykes were injured during the match at Castleford last Saturday. Castleford's Crant, anderson was sent off for a high tackle in injury time, but their coach, John Joyner, complained that opposing play-

ers had got away with worse. Leeds have signed the Tongan rugby union international Setaki Tuipuloto. The 24-yearold wing or centre has played in 10 Tests for Tonga, including last

year's rugby union World Cnp. Sheffield Eagles have enlisted the Australian centre Danny Grimley, who has played for Parramatta and the Brisbane club, Wynnum-Manly. Grimley was due to play for the new Super League cluh Adelaide Rams this season, but that competition was blocked by the courts in Australia.

Second Division Leigh have sacked their coach, the former Wigan and Great Britain forward Ian Lucas, and were moving quickly last night to replace him with Eric Hughes, who lost his joh at St Helens in Fehruary. Bradford Buffs (v St Helens, Chesenage Gup final, Wembley, Saturday): Graham: Cook, Calland, Loughin, Scales; Bradley, Paul; Mc Dermott, Dwyer, Hamer, Nicke, Dorougher, Knox.

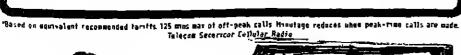
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Fluent Astle delays inevitable defeat

TONY COZIER reports from Bridgetown Barbados New Zealand 195 and 305

West Indies 472 and 29-0 (West Indies win by 10 wickets)

They did not have the ultimate

satisfaction of an innings victory

hut the West Indies yesterday

completed their triumph in the

first Test against New Zealand emphatically enough in mid-afternoon of the fourth day.

They were held up for an hour at the beginning by the contrasting overnight pair. left-hander Justin Vaughan. and at the end by a carefree last-

Nathan Astle and the dogged wicket stand between the fast bowlers Danny Morrison and Robert Kennedy that obliged them to bat again. Astle, a forthright right-han-

der from Auckland previously rated only as a one-day specialist, was on 82 at the beginning and continued as he had left off on Sunday afternoon. thumping anything loose from the West Indies fast quartet with free flow of his confident hat. He and Vaughan carried their

partnership to 144, a New

Zealand record for the fifth wick-

et in Tests against the West Indies,

before Bishop produced a good

one to have Vaughan leg before.

The left-hander's 24 had lasted

two and three quarter hours and he did not venture any stroke aggressive enough for a boundary. In exciting contrast Astle duly went past his maiden hundred in only his third Test and when he was finally taken at second slip driving at the newest of the West Indian fast men, Patterson

Thompson, for 125 he had hit two

sixes and 22 fours, a remarkable percentage of boundaries. The New Zealanders then quickly subsided with Bishop and captain Courtney Walsh chipping away at their lower order. Their innings win appeared certain when Kennedy joined Morrison, whose 23 ducks in Test cricket is a reasonable reflection of his batting ability. Young Kennedy hammered his first ball to mid-off for four, Morrison

chose to follow his example and they rattled up 45 in just over half an hour until Walsh had Kennedy taken at short leg. His four wick-ets for 72 carried his tally to 307 in Tests, level with Freddie Trueman's mark and only two short of Lance Gibbs, the second highest West Indian wicket-taker.

While a group of New Zealanders performed their version of the Haka on the boundary's edge, Sherwin Campbell indulged in the batting bacchanal that he had not allowed himself in his marathon 208 in the first innings. He made all the runs on his own, crashing six boundaries, three in succession to formalise the result.

India drop Kambli for **England tour**

ning of Kenny for victorious

Wigan had brought him the

Lance Todd: the exhausted

Sterling had, if anything, played

Three years later, Wigan em-

barked on a domination of the

code's big day that continued un-

til this year and their defeat in the

fifth round at Salford. After

their recent monopoly, their ab-

sence this time reinvigorates the

occasion. It will be quite like old

times to go down Wemhley Way

not knowing who is going to win.

Wembley is an overpriced,

inadequate stadium, hut the

weekend in London is the piv-

otal one of the rugby league sea-

son. Can it remain such under

the hlueprint that is in place for

But what of the future?

even better in a losing cause.

India have dropped batsman Vinod Kambli for this summer's tour of England, apparently for disciplinary reasons. Kambli, 24, who has scored

1,084 runs in 17 Tests at an average of 54.20, is replaced by the 23-year-old Saurav Ganguly. who has played one-day in-ternational cricket but no Tests. The uncapped medium-fast

bowler Paras Mhambrey and left-arm spinner Sunil Joshi are also included in the 16-man squad captained by Mohammed Azharrudin, to play three Tests and three Texaco Trophy games. The squad arrive on 30 April. Kamhli made his Test debut

against England in 1993, when Graham Gooch's touring side lost the three-match series 3-0, and scored 224 in the third Test Bomhay. Gundappa Viswanath, the

chief selector, said Kambli, who is third in the Wisden Cricket Monthly world rankings, was not considered for selection, but would not say why.

However, the former Indian captain Dilip Vengsarkar wrote in the Asian Age newspaper yes-terday that he believed Kambli "was dropped for reasons other than cricket". He suggested the reason was disciplinary as he had urged the selectors to include Kamhli in the squad for England. INDIAN SQUAD (to tour England): M Atheruddin (2001). S R Tenduker (mos-capt), N S Sel-hu, A D Jados, V Rathone, S V Mangelser, R S Drawd, S Gongley, N R Mongo (wdd, J Smooth, V Protact, P L Minombow, A R Humble, N D Hu-wan, S L V Rajs, S Josh).

Agassi upstaged by performing Seal

Tennis

JOHN ROBERTS reports from Monte Carlo

It seemed apposite that the pop star Seal should top the bill at the ATP Tour awards gala here last night, given his success with the Batman Forever soundtrack plus the fact that it was an ideal day for performing seals. Steady rain caused lengthy de-

lays at the Monte Carlo Open. Andre Agassi being among the frustrated competitors as he endeavoured to win his first match in three visits to the tournament. Agassi was on and off the Centre Court three times before defeating the Dutch lefthander Jan Siemerink 6-2, 6-3, after 62 minutes,

The Las Vegan won the first set after 35 minutes, then play was interrupted with Siemerink leading 2-I in the second set. It resumed for five minutes more - just enough time for Agassi to retake the lead 3-2 - before the players adjourned to the lockerroom again.

Although Agassi had controlled most of the points, he did not to take anything for granted. remembering his three-set de-feats here against Austria's Horst Skoff in 1991 and the Russian

evgeny Kafelnikov in 1994.

he lost his nerve under pressure in the ninth, double-faulting on

the second match point. The weather did not hinder those scheduled for No 2 Court, which is hlessed with a folding roof. Bohdan Ulihrach, a promising young Czech, took advantage of the amenity to record a 6-4, 6-2 win against Sweden's Magnus Larsson, and Sergi Bruguera began to resemble the player every opponent used to fear on the clay courts in defeating Andrea Gaudenzi, 6-2, 7-6.

Last week, Bruguera lost to Larsson in three sets in the third tound of his home tournament in Barcelona, and a year ago the Spaniard was defeated by Gaudenzi here in straight sets in the quarter-finals.

That result was typical of Bruguera's fortunes last year. when the winner of the French Open hack-to-back in 1993 and 1994, following two victories in Monte Carlo, struggled to overcome injury problems.

"When you don't play it's very difficult," Bruguera said. "You can practise a lot, very hard, but it doesn't matter if you're out of the competition. When you are out for a long time, maybe you relax and have an easy life and you have to recover the hunger to win. I had a very bad year, and I still feel that I'm not moving as well as hefore, hut

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Town Tulinaly's Burger. The news. CEEKENE

There was no blip by the American on this occasion. Although Siemerink saved three break points in the seventh game.

now I'm hungry to win something.

Results, Sporting Digest, page 27

the world

a vintage display of cuemanship that revived memories of the evenings when be dominated the championship in Sheffield. "I just tried to remember bow I used to do it in the old days," said the 38-year-old world No 2, who has slipped to 10th on the provisional rankings after

round with a dramatic 10-8 success, after trailing 8-5, with

one of his worst seasons. Who knows what might happen as the tournament unfolds. But this result bas restored belief in myself under the spotlight," be added when asked if he could win a seventh world title this time.

It might seem a small success in terms of his career but what it meant to Davis was evident in his salute to the audience after rolling in the final black of a 31 clearance to complete his triumph with a shot that brought a whoop of delight from his wife, Judy, who was watching on television back-

stage.
This eight-bour slog concluded at 20 minutes after midnight after an ultra-cautious opening session, which had run out of time one frame short of schedule, "Steve didn't win it, I lost it," Thome said, "I feel like retiring but I won't. I know I'm playing well but I've lost the ability to win."

Alan McManus beat Mick

Price 10-5 yesterday afternoon, but the scoreline flattered the 25year-old Scotsman. McManus eventually rediscovered his touch in the day's second session, winning seven frames in a row. The bespectacled Price, from Nuneaton had locked on course for a surprise success, but scored only 45 points in the closing stages as his challenge collapsed.

EMBASSY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Shoffletd) First round: S Davis (Eng) to W Price (Eng) 10-8. A McManus (Scol b) M Price (Eng) 10-8.

TODAY'S NUMBER

The boxers Great Britain will have at the Olympic Garnes in Atlanta. The Liverpool featherweight David Burke has been joined by the London heavyweight Fola Okesola following the withdrawal of a

Scots seek forward momentum

Football

PHIL SHAW reports from Copenhagen

With barely six weeks to go before the European Championship finals, Scotland face Denmark in a friendly here this evening anxious to establish a credible attacking partnership and to maintain their defensive solidity in the face of enforced

Crate Brown he long han-kered after il. . . . d of striking dun formed he Ally McCoist and Mit Johnston during the Andy Roxburgh era, Like a hy-peractive card dealer, the Scotland manager bas shuffled a Pack which has variously included McCoist, Duncan Shearer. Andy Walker, Scott Booth, Duncan Ferguson, Eoin Jess, Darren Jackson and John McGinlay, In the Parken Stadium, the onus will be on John Spencer and Kevin Gallacher to prove that they are a winning

Bulls pick

Hamer for

Wembley

hand. Brown's search for a forward with pace who can play through the middle off the last defender has belatedly led him back to Gallacher, who bas spent much of the season on the treatment table or the substitutes' bench after twice breaking a leg with Blackburn. As a winger in a previous incarnation with Dundee United and Coventry, Gallacher also offers Scutland the option of width.

The diminutive Spencer is likely to play slightly deeper, in the role he reluctantly fills for Chelsea. He has yet to score in six appearances for Scotland, whereas Gallacher boasts just two goals in the course of 20 cups spread over eight years. The only time they have been on the pitch together was the second half of last month's 1-0 victory over Australia, but with Ferguson out of the tournament and Booth doubtful, it is a case of needs must.

During a 10-match qualifying ceded only three goals, Scotland developed a redoubtable threecampaign in which they con-

man defensive unit in front of Jim Leighton. Now, injuries to Alan McLaren (knee) and Colin Calderwood (mediat figa-ment) have disrupted their plans, with the Rangers player in particular facing a race against time to make the finals.

Should the Scots elect to persevere with wing-backs and tbree defenders against the Danes, the likelihood is that Colin Hendry will be joined by Tom Boyd and Stewart McKimmie, the latter possibly operating as sweeper. Alternatively, if he judges that the European champions might go for three altackers, Brown may favour a conventional 4-4-2 formation.

"We've got to be adaptable," he said. "Playing three defenders has served us well, but Den-mark are as near to the Netherlands as we'll get, and when we play the Dutch in the finals they'll have three up. You can't comfortably play a threeman defence against that."

While Brown is committed to giving half a game each to Leighton and Andy Goram, thus reflecting another area of uncertainty, Peter Schmeichel is expected to keep goal for a near-full strength Denmark side. The Laudrup brothers, the Japan-bound Michael, and Brian of Rangers, are in line to win their 87th and 62nd caps

respectively.
The Scottish management remain unimpressed by suggestions that the Danes are weaker than when they won the trophy in 1992. Brown pointed out that Micbael Laudrup missed their "wild card" triumph because of a feud with the coach, Richard Moller Nilsen, and believes they could do well

"The Laudrups will be catered for," he said, as if arranging an underworld contract. "We're relishing the challenge it'll be a rehearsal for how to play against excellence tucked in off the front players."
SCOTTAND: Leighton (Hibemian); McKim-



Clearing off the line: The Republic of Ireland squad run through their paces in training for this afternoon's match in Prague

Gould to show his hard side

Bobby Gould criticised himself yesterday and said he was determined to improve on his last managerial performance with Wales. He has the chance in put things right against Switzerland in Lugano tonight in Wales' first game since their 3-0 defeat by Italy in January.

"I was too soft on the players I felt sorry for them because of the hard time they had had with their clubs over Christmas and the new year," Gould said.
Gould has left Ian Rush,
Mark Hughes, Ryan Giggs and

David Phillips at home, while Switzerland, England's first op-ponents in Euro 96 in England in June, name six of the side that lost at Wembley in November.

WALES: Coyne (Iranmere), Robinson (Cheri-ton), Bowen (Norwich), Symons (Men City), Coleman Blackburn), Lagg (Birmingham), Home (Gertrin), Jones (Wimbledon), Pen-bridge (Sheffeld Welf), Hartson (Arsenol), Taylor (Sheffeld Welf), Hartson (Arsenol), Taylor (Sheffeld Welf), Hartson (Arsenol), Wiresham), Edwards (Swansel), Speed (Leeds), Goss (Norwich), Phillips (Wreshorn), Davies (Man Utd.), Savage (Crewe).

SWITZERIAND: Pascole (Servette), gel, Vega (both Grasshopper Zunch), H

lic manager, has been forced to field an experimental side as many of his first-choice players

Bafana Bafana face

boys from Brazil

Phil Babh, hoping to be picked for an FA Cup final appearance with Liverpool, will win his 20th cap for the Republic of Ireland against the Czech Republic in Prague this afternoon. The centre-half, who will line up along-side Paul McGrath and Kenny Cunningham, is to play his first game since suffering a toe injury in Liverpool's 2-2 draw with Wimbledon last month. 'Roy Evans will be pleased I

am playing as be was very anxious I should get a game under

South Africa made the most of

their home advantage during the first two games of the Nelson

Mandela Inauguration Chal-lenge, beating Zambia and draw-ing with Argentina.

known us Bafana Bafana - Zulu

for "our boys" - faces its biggest challenge today against Brazil.

match and another victory," the

Brazilian coach, Mario Zagallo,

said as he and his players arrived

at Johannesburg airport on

Two veterans of the 1994

World Cup - central defender

Aldair and forward Bebeto - are

in the line-up for today's match,

along with a whole host of young

players from Brazil's Olympic

squad. For Brazil, the interna-

tional friendly in Johannesburg

will be a warm-up for Atlanta,

and a chance to test Africa's best.

Clive Barker, meanwhile, was

having personnel problems. A

knee injury has kept out the

The South African coach.

Monday.

But the squad, affectionately

"We hope to have a great

my belt as soon as possible," Babb said. "At first the specialist thought I would be out for six weeks, which would have meant my season being over. But now I am back playing for the Re-public and am still hopeful of be-ing considered for Wembley." Mick McCarthy, the Repub-

are out because of injuries and club commitments, while Roy Keane is suspended.

Wolves striker Mark Williams,

who scored both South Africa's

goals in a 2-I victory over Tunisia

in the African Cup of Nations fi-nal in February. Other key men

playing for overseas clubs may

not make it home in time for the

South Africa, welcomed back

to international football in 1992

tional debuts are Cunningham and the Middlesbrough midfielder Alan Moore. "It's an exeiting time for them, and a good opportunity for them to show me what they can do at this level," McCarthy said. McCarthy also revealed he had no hesitation in giving As-

Making their senior interna-

ton Villa's McGrath a record 82nd cap, "Paul may have lost a yard of pace, but is still quicker than when I was a fully fit player. He is an inspiration to

Babb makes welcome return

maintain his present form and stays in the Premiership, he will always be part of my plans." AIWAYS DC PAIT Of TRY PLAITS.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND (v Czech Republic.

Prague, today): divon iBlackburni; Renna

Blackburni, Irwin (Wan Linted). Cunningham

Wimbledoni, McGrath (Aston Wala). Bethir fluespool, Houghton (Operal Polace). Townsend

4ston Wal, Rennedy (Jactpool, Quins Wan
Criv, Moore (Middlestrough). Substitutes:

Bonner (Celtic), Fisming (Middlestrough). Re
rangham (Man Criv). Daleh (Coventy). Re
Goldrick (Arsena).

CZECK REPUBLIC: Koutin (Sporta Prague).

the other players. If Paul can

Goldrick (Arsenal).
CZECH REPUBLIC: Kouba (Sparta Prague),
Radler (Casestieutern), Hapal (Tenenle),
Roda, Repka (Sparta Prague), Nemecele Iscreme), Frydols (Sparta Prague), Laid (Schalle O4), Bergler (Borussa Dortmund), Kuka (Kaiserslautern), Druink (Petra Omorce),

Stoke's £800,000-rated Ice-

Gillespie doubtful for return at Leeds

Keith Gillespie's bopes of rejoining Newcastle's push for the Premiership title at Leeds on Monday have suffered another setback. The Northern Ireland international winger, who was due to resume full training today after an ankle injury, bas now picked up tonsillitis and is doubtful for the game at Elland

after decades of isolation be-Road. cause of apartheid, are used to The Newcastle physiotherabeing the underdogs. The team pist, Derek Wright, said: "He will have to stay indoors for a fend a trophy that commemofew days on antibiotics and rates South Africa's transition then we'll monitor the situation. from white minority rule to It's a shame because Keith was ready to step up his training."

Today's game "is for President Mandela," Barker said. "What a Steve Bruce, the Manchester United captain, who will miss night it will be if we beat Brazil." The first Nelson Mandela In-Sunday's game against Nottingham Forest with a hamstring injury, is optimistic about being auguration Challenge was played just hours after its namefit for the last Premiership sake took the oatb as the coungame of the season at Midtry's first black president in dlesbrough and the FA Cup fi-1994, South Africa beat Zambia nal a week later. "The last time I suffered a hamstring injury like 2-1, scoring both goals after Mandela gave players a pcp this was at Christmas and I was back in a fortnight," be said.

landic centre-balf Larus Sig-urdsson is wanted by the Premiership newcomers Sunderland, while the Watford keeper Kevin Miller is a target for Southampton as they look for a replacement for Dave Beasant and Bruce Grobbelaar. The £1m-rated Miller, who is the first of t tipped as a future England keeper, is also interesting Celtic.

Wimbledon's owner, Sam Hammam, is still pursuing plans to move his club to Dublin. Hammam has been in the Irish capital for talks with Paul McGuinness, the manager of the rock band U2. Talks are also reported to have been beld with property developer about proposals to build a £75m, 40,000-

capacity stadium near Dublin. The Dons, who lodge at Sclburst Park, the home of Crystal Palace, are adamant they must move to survive in the Premiership, but the switch to Ireland is opposed by the Irish FA and Wimbledon supporters.

Danish fighter.

Hamilton forced to experiment

four uncapped players against Sweden in today's friendly at Windsor Park, Belfast.

The Bolton goalkeeper Aidan Davison, the 18-year-old St Johnstone centre-half Danny Griffin, and wingers Jon Me-Carthy, of Port Vale, and James Fettis, Griffin is expected to be

Rhona Simpson, the Scottish

striker, came back from injury

to score her 10th goal in 12

games to take Great Britain to

a deserved 1-0 win against

Spain, the Olympic champi-

ons, in Atlanta yesterday, writes

The teams had to endure

temperatures well into the 80s

as they fine-tuned their prepa-

rations for this summer's Olympic, and Britain dominat-

ed the first half, particularly in

Bill Colwill.

the midfield.

ter several withdrawals from the squad. Injury bas ruled out Keith Gillespie, Phil Gray, Neil Lennon and Alan Fettis, while the striker Iain Dowie is serving

a one-match suspension. Davison will take over from

The goal came nine minutes from the end following a long

corner. Tina Cullen, chipping

the ball over a Spanish de-

fender's stick, surprised the de-

fence with a reverse stick centre

and Simpson was on hand to

Britain play the United States

today in the second of their

provide the finishing touch.

three-Test series.

Bryan Hamilton, the Northern Quinn of Blackpool are set to at right-back allowing Steve Ireland manager, may include take their international bows af- Lomas of Mancbester City to switch into midfield.

Sweden's experienced squad includes the former Arsenal midfielder Stefan Schwarz, Everton's Anders Limpar and goalkeeper Thomas Ravelli, wbo taken part in the last two World Cup finals.

Merricks able

to overcome

adversity

talk at half-time. SPORTING DIGEST

democracy.

and Clarke

Rugby Union

In a stunning display of sailing John Merricks and Ian Walker, Britain's 470 representatives in the Olympics, overcame all kinds of adversity at the French Olympic Week regatta here vesterday, writes Stuart Alexan-

Intel-Lest series.

Great Bertain: H Rose (Sution); J Athles (Bradford); S Fraser (Grove), K Brown (Stough), L Cope (Lecester); M Davies (Sution), P Robertson (Grove, capt), C Cook (Hightown); M Nicholis (Slough), R Simpson (Edinburgh), T Culies (Hightown): Sabstitutes used K Johnson (Lecester), I Miller (Ciliton), S MacDonald (Glasgow Western). der from Hyères. Kept ashore by bigh winds and suffering from food poisoning, Merricks was baving treatment when an afternoon race was called. The boat was sailed to the course by the coach Derek Clark, Merricks following by fast boat.

They were fourth in the first race despite a bolt on the rudder working loose, Afterwards they lashed the still wobbly rudder together and led the second race from start to finish.

Andy Beadsworth edged closer to the top eight and a place in the Soling match race play-off yesterday. They were recalled for being over the line in the first race, but pulled back to eighth and were sixth in the second race.

Richmond eye **England's Catt**

The Richmond rugby direc-

tor, Vinny Codrington, said: We bave been speaking to Mike and Ben, but the discussions are not concluded. However, we intend making a big hit

The New Jersey Nets fired their head coach, Butch Beard, on Monday, just one day after the Nets finished the regular season with a 30-52 record, 30 games behind first-place Orlando in the Atlantic Division and well out of contention for a play-off berth.

Kardooni is ruled out with a

bamstring strain and Back is rested. Jamie Hamilton replaces Kardooni and Bill Drake-Lee takes over from Back.

Athletics The world 400 metres record holder, Butch Reynolds, said he strongly sup-ported drug testing for performance-en-hancing substances but wished international officials would find a dif-

terent way to conduct the random tests. The interview took place a day after the international Amateur Athletic Federa-

bon representatives went to his home

to demand a unne sample.

Basketball

Richmond, the Courage Second Division club, are planning a major signings coup, with the England internationals Mike Catt and Ben Clarke top of their list.

presentation on 7 May.

The date is significant as players' contracts will be officially activated the day before, following the ending of the Rugby Football Union's moratorium on player payments. Leicester, still with an outside

chance of a league and cup double, will be without two key players for tonight's Courage League game with Gloucester at Welford Road, Flanker Neil Back and scrum-balf Aadel Kardooni both miss the penultimate game of the season.

Peter McNeeley, who last year was beaten in 89 seconds by Milke Tyson, has pleaded guilty in a Boston Municipal Court to hitting a man in the face with a beer bottle at a night-club. McNee-ley received a suspended six-month sen-tence and will be on probation for a year. P J Gallegher, the London-based Man-curian, claimed the vacant British supercurian, claimed the vacant British super-featherweight title after a ferocious fight with Glasgow's Devey Michael at the Che-tal Patace National Sports Centre on Mon-day night. The referee counted him out with a second remaining of the 10th round. PROFESSIONAL PROMOTION (Crystal Pulsoe National Sports Centre, Mindely): 4-rd light-heavyweight: L Morrae (Swe) does with N Wed-man (Brighton). 4-rd light-malddeweight: A McFadden int) to Andrews (Cardiff) at 2nd; 6-rd super-flectherweight: C Shepherd (Siloth) by M Smith (Swenses) at 2 cd. 12-rd vacant British super-flectherweight title: P J Gallagher (Wood Green) by D Michiale (Glasgow) to 10th. 4-rd light-heavyweight: L Morens ISwo) draw with N Wadman (Engluon). 6-rd flyweight: O Prijest (Dedorf) bit S Norman (Shepshed) bit. 4-rd maisterweight: J Jacobs (Mrg draw with C Woo-las (Doncaster). 4-rd weiterweight: G Estman (Estitizatea) till W Shepherd (Salptin) bit. 4-rd light-weiterweight: C Stanley (Croydon) by J Campbell (Maksyot) et 7 bot

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (Tauxon): Not-inglamshire 230 for 8 (I Athali 56 v Somer-set, No play yesterday, Match drawn, (Knowle and Derridge) Derbyshre 300 for 3 dec (T J G O'Gorman 125no, M R May 52) v Warwickshire.

BASSEDBAH

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Cleveland 6 Beltimore 3;
New York Yankess 6 Karlasis City 2; Boston 4 Minnesota 1; Crucago White Son 12 Tieste 4; Califoorle 3 Dettot 5; Colkland 6 Malwarkee 2; Thombo
16 Seatule 7.
NATIONAL LEAGUE: San Diego 5 Florida 3; Montreal 8 St. Louis 0; Prusburgh 9 Priladelphia 3;
Alteria 4 Los Angeles 1; New York Mess 5 Cincornota 1; Colorado 4 Chreago Cubs 2; Wouston 11
San Francisco 8. Football

The Southern League are looking for a new soonsor for next season after the housebuilders, Beazer Homes, announced it is to end its funding of the league which for the last nine years has

league which for the last nine years has carried the company's name.

PREMIER AND PIERY DIVISION SUSPENSIONS: Sendings-off: M. Beenay (Leefs United) 2 matches from 1st May; P. Rollings (Leefs United) 2 matches from 1st May; P. Rollings (Leefs United) 2 matches from 2st April 21, Prematry Pointies I Dowle (West Ham) 1 match from 27th April; J. Newscare (Sheff Wed) 2 match from 27th April; J. Newscare (Sheff Wed) 2 match from 27th April; J. Newscare (Sheff Wed) 2 match from 27th April; J. Rollings (Leefs Wed) 2 match from 28th April; J. Bending) 1 match from 28th April; J. Bending) 1 match from 27th April; J. Rollings (Distribution) 1 match from 28th April; Distribution (Portshouth), Further one-match beat; C. Freenling (Oldram) 1 match from 28th April; D. Rollings (Norwech) 1 match from 28th April; D. Rollings (Norwech) 1 match from 28th April; D. Rollinson (Charlion) 1 match from 28th April; C. Rollinson (Charlion) 1 match from 28th April; D. Rollinson (Charlion) 1 match from 28th April; D. Rollinson (Charlion) 1 match from 28th April; D. Rollinson (Charlion) 1 match from 28th April; R. Rollinson (Charlion) 1 match (Coverny) 1 match from 27th April; All April M. Allen M. Allen (Mortene) 1 match from 1 match 1 match

1.27 m April.

MOAY'S LATE RESULTS: Gill Vaschall Connect Möderminster D Strvenage 1: Southport acclosified 1: Bolf in Spottish Langue Print leger Hamilton D Dundes Urz 2: lefs Langue relear Division: Carchiton O Bromley O. Finst patro M. Third Division: Carchiton O Bromley O. Finst patro M. Third Division: Carchiton O Bromley O. Finst patro M. Third Division: Carc O Windows Association of the Carchiton A. UniBond League Premier Division: Byth Spatians S Hyde 1. President's Cap Final first leg: Guseley D Worksop 1. Aven Insurance Combination First Division: Bristo Cay 4 Charlton 1; Bristol Rovers 1 Oxford 0; Chelsas 3 Norwich 2

suich 6 ist Wittery Towni, Federation Browery Northern League First Division: RTM Newcas-te 5 Sentenn FS. Hosts West Counties League First Division: Marie Food of Newcaste 2. North-ern Counties East League Presider Division: Sheffled O North Fermy Urapid 8. Portities League First Division: Burnigham 1 Man-choster Und C. Newcastie 2 Sottom 3 (or Gateshead): Wokerhempton O Blackburn O (at Satissherod: Wolvernampton u pracousin o pra-reflood. Sestond Division Asson Villa 1 Bratiford 0: Manchestr Chr. 2 Port Ville 1 for Mitton Alblon): Presson: 0 Militaleshough 1. Third Divisions: Rochatile 2 Bury 2; Wagin 1 Derlington 2. Unifert Sesses Country Fraz Divisions: Shoretham 2 Opi-wood 0. Winestoniesel Kerel League First Divi-sion: Beckenham 0 Furness 2.

HOCKGY

ENGLAND SQUAD (European Club Championships, Libertan National Sports Centre, 24 and 25 May): C Reid (Hygown, C Burr (Cillon), K Bowden (Galsam, Leicepter), L Byllas (Sprint Canada Life), M Clevilow (Carbirluy), J Crook (Hygiwow), J Empean (Carpirluy), 3 Gibert (Hygiwow), K Farenbam (Loughborough Students), K Fames (Incient), C Manadan (Culton), L Mexiconbe (Hygiwow), J Smith (Ipswich), L Cultiford (Ciffon), S Biamies (Balsam, Leicester).

Ice bockey
NHL PLAY-OFFE Eastern Conference, first
round: Prinburgh 4 Westington 1 (Washington
lad best-of-even series 2-1); Profide 6 Boston
2 (Flotda lead best-of-even series 2-0). Westem Conference, first round: Varcouser 4 Colorado 3 (best-of-even series tied 2-2).

Rugby Union

Gareth Rowlands, the Canadian In-ternacional lock, has agreed to stay with the Heimelken League First Division club, Bridgend, for another two seasons, end-ing speculation about an immunent move. ing speculation about an immunent move. Garath Archer, the 21-year-old England lock who last week joined Newcastle for next season from Bristol, has escaped a ban after being cleared of a yellow card offence by the Gloucester disciplinary committee. The hearing at Bristol's Memorial Ground on Monday night found him not gailty of punching Har-lequins' Mick Watson in a league game. Seper-12: Western Province 35 Wellingon 25.

Skiing Two top international ski officials charged after the death of Ulnke Maier, of Aushave agreed out of court to pay

£340,000 to Major's daughter. The 2340,000 to Maier's daughter. The charges against them were suspended. Kurt Hoch, race director for the in-ternational Std Federation and his as-sistant, Jan Tischhauser, had been charged with marslaughter through neg-ligence in the Geeth of Meier, who broke her neck in a 65-mph crash during a World Cup downhill race in January a Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany.

DWITHINING
ALISTRALIAN OLYMPIC TRIALS (Sydney): Men:
100m treestyle: 1 C Fydier 50.44sec; 2 M Num
50.49; 2 I Van Der Weil 50.83, 200m butterfly: 1.8 Goodman 1:57.07; 2 5 Miger 1:57.96;
3 M Raberts 2:01.39. Wessen: 100m bedsstroke: 1 Ne Skeverson 1:00.8; 2 Mi Smath
1:03.25; 8 E Owston 1:03.86. 400m freestyle:
11 Lews 4/m1 1.4.45sec; 2 C Thorpe 4:16.93;
3 S Gerrer 4:17.21.

Tennis

Britain were beaten for the second suc-Britain were beaten for the second successive day in Pool A of the Fed Cup Europe-Africa zone Group One when they lost 3-0 to Russia at La Manga, Spain, yesterday. Sam Smith, from Essex, who has been making her debut in the competition this week, lost 6-1, 6-3 to Elena Makigrova in the opening singles match. Russia then took a winning 2-0 lead when Elena Likhovtseva beat the British No 1, Clare Wood 6-4, 6-4 in the top singles.

British NO 1. Clair WOOD 5-4, 6-4 in the top singles. FED CUP Euro/African zone (La Manga, Spain) First resuck Russia in Storate 3-0; Belance in Entian 2-1 if grathers lost to S Smith 2-6-3-6 V Zvenna in C Wood 7-6-4-6-5-3; ignatures and D Berobersheisea for U Later and Wood 7-5 7-6. N Zierama of C Wood 7-6 4-6 6-2; ignatures and O Barobarshinoon by U Laies and Wood 7-5 7-6; itsly of Laies 3-2.1; Sweden of Norway 3-6; Sweden and Norway 3-7; Sweden of Norway 3-6; Sweden and N Nagosiano 3-0; Crosses for Georgia 3-0; Romania of Graces 2-1; Hungary to Portugal 3-0.

MONTE CARLO OPEN Pirat resued: A Costa 15:: or J Ames 159 6-2-6; 3 Bulgaron (Cripp) of Marson (Swed 6-4-6-2; 5 Bulgaron (Spi) for A Gauders (10) 6-2-7-6; J Sarronez (Spi) for A Gauders (10) 6-2-7-6; J Sarronez (Spi) for P Haadhus, Niedii 6-2-6-3; C Polatre (Fr) for H Derekmann (Sen 6-3-6-3; C Moya (Spi to 10 Comportes (11) 2-6-6-3-6-2; A Agassi (US) for J Sementa (Redn 6-2-6-3). 6-2; A Agasta IUS) by 1 Stemments (Negh) 6-2; 6-3 6-2; A Agasta IUS) by 1 Stemments (Negh) 6-2; 6-3. WOMEN'S SPYRING SATELLITE (Edithburgh) First rought E Bond (Ed) by 7 Vertical (Negh) 6-2 6-4; L Woodnoth's (EB) by 1 A Nummay (Num) 7-5; 6-6 6-4; L Woodnoth's (EB) by 1 Agan (Ed) 6-6-1; 1 Stems 6-4; L Woodnoth's (EB) by 1 Agan (Ed) 6-6-1; 1 Stems 15A) by 1 A Bertinu (Num) 6-0; 6-1; 1 Wood (EB) by 1 A Bertinu (Num) 6-0; 6-1; 1 Wood (EB) by 1 A Bertinu (Num) 6-0; 6-1; 1 Wood (EB) by 1 Agan (Num) 6-3; 6-4; R Marquickey (Num) by 1 2 Agan (Num) 6-3; 6-4; R Marquickey (Num) by 1 Vosseborg (Nech) 6-3; 8-2; A Marquickey (Num) by 1 Vosseborg (Nech) 6-3; 8-2; A Marquickey (Num) by 1 1 T Pawkor (Num) 6-1; 6-1; 1 Paiden (CB) by 1 1 T Pawkor (Num) 6-1; 6-1; 1 Paiden (CB) by 1 1 T Pawkor (Num) 6-1; 6-1; 1 Paiden (CB) by 1 1 Conductive (Num) 6-1; 6-1; 1 Paiden (CB) by 1 1 Conductive (CB) by 1 2 Cond

Flying the flag for England rehich Reside £29.50 FRITICIAL SPUNSORS OF THE ELECTRIC FOOTBALL FRAM

Olazabal withdraws again

Simpson brings inspiration

Fears for Jose Maria Olazabal's career increased yesterday when be decided to pull out of yet another tournament, this week's Turespana Masters in Valencia.

The 30-year-old Spaniard has been diagnosed as suffering from rheumatoid arthritis in both his feet and has not

played competitively since last

September. The next of a long

Endsleigh Longae First Division

Nao playing (not on coupons): Leicester v irmingram; Sunderland v West Bromwich; himmenampton v Huddersfield, Playing Sun-land Design (Coupons)

FA Carling Premiersh

1 Asion Villa v Man City

4 OPR v West Har

10 Millest v Stoke 11 Nonwich v Watford

32 Port Vale v Charlton

13 Portsmouth v Ipswich

15 Southend v Oldham

line of target dates for his return is now the Spanish Open. which begins in Madrid in a fortnight's time.

Olazabal's manager, Sergio Gomez, said: "It was a very close decision this time, but Jose Maria still didn't think he was ready. He was out on the course practising from Monday to Thursday last week, but when the doctors cut down on the anti-inflammatory tablets he has to take, be felt worse."

21. Crewe v Oxford Util 22. Notts County v Swans 23. Peterborough v Hull 24. Shrewsbury v Swindon

Taird Division

29 Darlington v Chester

30 Doncaster v Wigen . 31 Exeter v Bury 32 Fulham v Gilfneham

32 Hardepool v Preston .

34 Leven Orient y Rame

35 Mansfield v Colchester. 36 Northampton v Lincoln.

Boll's Scottish League Pressier Division

40 Fallerk v Hiberbian

41 Hearts v Kimernoc

25 Stockport v Bristol Rovers 26 Wrighton v Regular

WEEKEND FIXTURES AND POOLS FORECAST Scottish League First Division 46 Dumbarron v Morron ...

> Second Division Third Division

48 St Johnstone v St Mirren

54 Afters v Alica 55 Brechin v Caledonia Four drawers Standburn v Arsersé, Portsmouth v Inswich, Dorceaste v Wigan, Ayr v East Fife. Pive aways: Barrisley, Shelfield Unit, Swindon, Galling am., Celbic.
Tea homes Astan Villa, Mortach, Blackpool, Creve, Woombe, Hesris, Rach, Dundee United, Stirling, Brechin.

Footbali 7.30 unless stated WORLD CUP SROUP ONE Greece v Slovenis (7.0) (at Spiros Louis stadium, Att

Yugoelavia v Faroe Islands (8.0) (at Red Star stadium, Beigrade) GROUP EIGHT da v Liechte INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLIES England v Croatin (8.0) (at Kembley stadium) Crock Rep v Rep of Ireland (4.0) ... (at Strahov stadium, Przgue) Denmarik v Scotland (7.15) k Parker stadlum, Copenhig orthern Ireland v Sweden .

jat \$300 Ca

Comunale di Comeredo, Lugaro) da v Genuary ond stadium, Roberdam)

TODAY'S FIXTURES Belgian v Roseia (7.0) of king Baudouin stadium, Brusses; Bomale v Albentia (3.0) (di Bišro Poje stadium, Zerika) Romarda v Baorgia (3.0) of Natonal stadium, Bucharest) Shasta v Bulgarla (5.0) of Kostak stadium, Travel

GM VALDOHALL CONFERENCE ort (7.45) SPALDING CUP FINAL PIRST-LEG

SPALDONG CUP FINAL FIRST-LEG placetesfield v Brunnigrove (7.45)
[IMBOND LEAGUE Premier Division: Hyde Utd v Gussley. First Unfaint: Faciley Cethor v Netherfield: Worksop Town v Astron.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE Premier Division: Neu-port AFC v Merthyr (7.45; Salsbuy v Ruhlden & D'monds; VS Rugby v Crarely Town. Nedland Divisions: Page Town Crarely Town. Nedland Divisions: Page Town v Troutings Town.

COS LEAGUE First, Divisions: Balencay Town v Barton Rouers. Second Division: Coler Roy v Bracknet Town. Third Division: Harow Town of Ethod.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Cermass Bay v Conneits: LEAGUE OF WALES; Cemass Bay v Connah's; Quay Cambran v Ton Pentre.

nam v Liverpool, Transmere v Sheff Unit: West Brom v Notts County. Second Division: Barnsley v Lecester, Huddersled v Grinsby; Huff v Mars feth Port Vate v Asspo Vite, Rotherheam v Back-pool. Third Division: Carisis v Darlington; Crester-bury v Donboaser; Walsaff v Scarthort; Wigem v Stockport.

Specipor.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Distance Crystal Palece v Wirnblodon; Minadi v Chariton 17.00; CPR v Birstol Cry (2.0); Swindon v Nohnech (2.0). Second Division: Chellerham v Cardiff.

WINSTONEAD KENT LEAGUE First Division: Curterbury Cry v Thamesmead Town; Furness

WINDLOWERD KENT LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION: CARTERIUS (Chy V Themesmand Town: Furness v State Green, NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Premier Division: Density Linguis V Beither Town JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Woodbridge Town v Stowmarket Town. GREAT MILLS LEAGUE Premier Division: Tor-ingon v Creation Unged; Frome Town v Ken-

PRESS AND JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE:

Cricket ECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Gloucesterships accesterships (Bristoli; Kerti v Lancaships (Can erbury). QNOWLE & DORRIDGE CC: Wanwickshire v Der

byshire. OTHER MATCH: Birtish Universities v Wa (The Parks, Oxford) Rugby Union 7.30 Index, stated
COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONISHIP National
League One: Leicester v Gloucester (7.45).
HEINEMEN NATIONAL LEAGUE First, Divisions
Brageria v Newton (7.0).
CLUB MATCHES; Coroll v Pompool (7.15); Caredi
Inst v Newton (7.0).

Speedway
PROMER LAGUE Crocky Heart & Stoke v Worker-hardism, Long Scion : Essiver Poole & Oromb Souther Municips - Researcy (at Gasgon), STAR CUP First Yound, first legt Hon v Mic-Other sports

🕏 0800 000 111 SHOOKER: Embess, Word Chambonship Tra-che Theate, Sheffedt, TERRES: LTA Spring Sale are Reproductive. National Breakdown

si upstaged by forming Seal





FOOTBALL: Venables unveils three-man defence for friendly against difficult opponents at Wembley

England try bold new formation

ENGLAND

v Croatia

GLENN MOORE

Football Correspondent

Evolution, not revolution, that was the word from the England camp yesterday. Even so, however often the decision to play just three defenders against Croatia at Wembley tonight is described as a logical progres-sion it remains a landmark. Not since the days of lace-up

balls and baggy shorts have England met serious opposition with such a numerically chal-lenged defence. It is 18 years since England even risked play-ing three defenders against weak opponents - when Ron

least not in his football dealings, and there is some logic behind the transition. Unlike Graham

for four years - is Mark Wright, who has impressed in a back three at Liverpool. He will be flanked by two players who ought not to be exposed in the wide areas, Gary Neville and Stuart Pearce.

This is important because this system is fundamentally different from those practised by Liverpool and Aston Villa. There are no wing-backs, in-stead, when attacked in numbers, the defence will be supported at the centre, primarily by Paul Ince, but also by Paul Gascoigne and Platt.

There is enough of the Ajax system in this to wonder if England's next kit will feature broad red stripe down the front but it is not intended to

be a carbon copy.
"There are similarities hut it is not the same," Venables said. "This is a natural progression of what we have been doing. I have heen looking to do it for a long time. If we have four defenders and they have two forwards we have two players not doing any-thing while our midfield two are running their legs silly. This is about getting help to midfield. This is a natural way of playing."
"I do not think this is a hig

change, it is a gradual progression," said Platt, who is included for the first time since the Umhro Cup. In recent games, he noted, Gareth Southgate and Steve Howey had "stepped out of the back four into midfield, the difference is that Paul Ince will be stepping back from

Both Southgate and Howey have looked tentative pushing forward and it may be that playing the numbers game this way round proves more successful. "It is not that defenders are unwilling to do it. They have been hrought up not to, Venables said.

Attitudes are changing, minds have opened, said Platt. "The formation will change as the game changes," he added. "We have a lot of adaptable players in the England squad now. We are starting with three defenders but, if the opposition

start throwing people forward, we will change." Venables, who encourages team?" Venables was asked. his players to take responsibility rather than look to the hope so. The shrewd Teddy Sheringham will help Fowler to bench, added: "I want them to sort things out for themselves." find his feet, as will the presence While Ince will be working out whether to come or go the of his Liverpool room-mate,

decisions will be simpler further tacking partner, Stan Colly- of the dark horses for Euro 96. forward - to shoot, or not to more, will probably be named shoot, that will be the question. among the substitutes today. In the case of Robbie Fowler,

The reshaped team should certainly get a thorough test. Croatia are a good side with several gifted individuals, notably Zvonímir Boban, Alen Boksic and Robert Prosinecki, Just as importantly they will have, in contrast to most friendly op-ponents, a deep-seated desire to do their reborn country proud. Strong in defence and quick in the counter-attack they are one

With the championships so close the result is not important. the performance is. But, everyone knows a bad defeat would be a serious hlow, especially if England are pulled apart defensively. A draw will satisfy Venables, as long as it is well-

earned. CROATIAE Lodic (Croatia Zagreb), Jurcevic (Freiburg), Jami (Real Bets), Stimac (Derby Courty), Jerdan (Real Ovede), Billie (Mear Ham Unted), Assourayoid (Hayduk Syid, Problandid (Barcelona), Suker (Sevile), Boban (Mian). . Scots' search, page 27

Weish, Scots and Irish, the latter having this week added a stri-

RFU pins its hopes on the broadcasters

Steve Bale on the latest developments affecting rugby union's television drama

erning body is now almost ready to jump into bed - though not quite alone - with BSkyB and then hope the Five Nations' Championship will be saved by competing broadcasters bid-ding up the price of separate television contracts with the other home unions.

This perilous path, with ITV as probable partner for Sky in England, was explicitly confirmed as Rugby Foothall Union policy at Twickenham yesterday. The union restated the case which 12 days ago won the approval of its full committee but not that of Cliff Brittle, its own executive's chairman and bete noire of the Eng-lish clubs in the RFU's other ongoing altercation. In vain Brit-tle had instructed that yesterday's briefing should not take place.

The RFU is keen to have the penny and the bun, so to speak. Tony Hallett, the secretary, said on the one hand: "The marketplace is that much more vibrant by having Sky in it." And on the other: "Our honest target is to mix and match, with no exclusive deal. I take the moral high ground as opposed to the financial high ground on this issue."

Having resolved to sit alone - with its prospective £150m on the moral high ground by re-jecting the equal four-way split that is televised rugby's tradition, the RFU is putting on its most emollient face, a model of sweet reasonableness plainly intended to put its Celtic an-tagonists in a belligerent light.

I've been accused of being blimpish and arrogant, and I'm told Willie-John McBride thinks I'm an idiot," John Jeavons-Fellows, the RFU's main TV negotiator, said. McBride was an eminent Lions captain 22 years ago: Jeavons-Fellows was the executive's nominee for the chairmanship famously trounced by Brittle in a vote of the RFU

membership three months ago.
In the light of current bargaining positions, it is curious to note that the RFU already has a substantially larger share, because although the £27m payable by the BBC under the 1994-97 contract has been divided four ways, England's massive cut of the subsidiary Sky contract takes it to 37 per cent.

Evidently, this no longer suffices. Having refused to back down no matter what, the RFU has an exhaustingly long way to go to win the hearts and minds of the

dent anti-RFU voice to those of

English rugby's embattled gov- the other two who were already innately hostile to anything emanating from Twickenham. The English are now in effect

relying on either Sky or the BBC or ITV, or a combination, not only to pay the RFU a vast sum for the next TV contract beginning next year but also to do something similar for the other unions. Only this way, it seems. can the championship, the Lions and conceivably even England's status as one of the hosts of the

1999 World Cup be preserved.
Yesterday's plaintive message from Twickenham was that
England would never voluntarily leave the Five Nations, so would have to be kicked out. To avoid that eventuality, the RFU would now like their "friends". as they were described, to listen to its detailed position so that everyone might benefit. Utopia will then be achieved.

Minister

"Consultants" advice suggests that by doing it singly in the same way as France, the broadcasters singly or jointly will go from one country to another to bid for the rights for the matches played in that territory."
Hallett said. "We believe that all will be well once the negotiations are under way.

The RFU legitimises its argument with statistics - 77.7 per cent of the rugby-viewing public of the United Kingdom, 82 per cent of the population, expenditure of nearly £8m to service the game in England which is claimed to be very nearly as much as the other three unions put together.

But there is another agenda, freely admitted yesterday. The RFU took out a £34m loan to cover the rebuilding of Twickenham which costs an annual £3.5m to service. The first of four equal repayments is due in 1999 with the fourth in 2003, so the RFU needs serious money

and it needs it quickly. "In making our financial projections we need to be in control of these numbers because if we fell short it's our problem and no one else's." Jeavons-Fellows said. "We're not talking about selling the Five Nations: we're only talking about selling the Twickenham matches."

A meeting of the Five Nations in Dublin on Saturday, flagged as a deadline by the Scottish RU vice-president Fred McLeod when the row hlew up last week, turns out to be a meeting of European Rugby Cup Ltd, though there is not a great difference between the two. No meeting of the home unions' television advisory committee is scheduled.

Greenwood's side stuttered to Taylor's abortive attempt to a 2-0 win over Luxembourg. play three at the back, with There has been some tinkering wing-backs, in Oslo in 1993 with sweepers and wing-backs since but, in essence, the flat Venahles' team should know what they are doing. He has been working specifically on this since Friday and, said David back four has remained as English as roast beef... perhaps it is time for a change. But to do so tonight, less than Platt, who is restored as captain, eight weeks before the start of more generally for some time, The defence is also better balthe European Championships and against such a formidable anced than the Oslo Three (Des Walker, Tony Adams, attacking unit as Croatia appears either bold, or foolhardy. Gary Pallister) who were ex-Terry Venables can rarely be accused of being the latter, at tre – and winning his first cap **Real Madrid pay the** price of hooliganism Real Madrid have been fined games after being dismissed. £57,000 as a result of violent be-There was also trouble in the midfield. other semi-final second leg, haviour by their supporters during the European Cup quar-

ter-final second leg against Juventus last month. Uefa, European football's

took into account not only the Spain's Manuel Diaz Vega behaviour of some Real fans during the 20 March match in Turin, but also "material and personal damage caused to the Juventus were fined £8,000 for "setting off fireworks and or- final between Paris Saint-Gerganisational shortcomings" at the same match. The Italians

were also fined £22,000 for fan fireworks and a pitch invasion by eight supporters after their semi-final first leg against Nantes in Turin on 3 April. Nantes were fined £5,200 or their team's improper conduct at the return match in France on 17 April. Nantes' Bruno Carotti was banned for two

which pitted Greece's Panathinaikos against Ajax Amsterdam. The Greeks were fined £8,000 because their supporters threw governing body, said the fine fireworks and other objects on to the pitch.

> will take charge of the European Cup final between Ajax and Juventus in Rome on 22 May. Italy's Pierluigi Pairetto will referee the Cup-Winners' Cup man and Rapid Vienna in Brussels on 8 May.

Tonnie Bruins Slot, Johan Cruyff's assistant at Barcelona, will move to PSV Eindhoven to run their youth division next season. Bruins Slot, who has spent eight years as assistant to Cruyff at Barcelona, signed a fiveyear contract with PSV. Before Bruins Slot moved to Barcelona he headed Ajax's youth section.



Pause for thought: Robbie Fowler (right) prepares with Paul Gascoigne for his full debut for England against Croatia tonight Photograph: Robert Hallam

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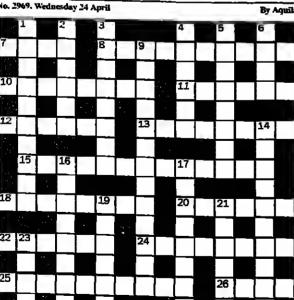
2 Barber's work to be done

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ACROSS

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8 Froth on beer, intoxicating, can produce rash (10) 22 Riding, hay makes a com-10 Most self-satisfied male to

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Steve McManaman. His club at-Croats on the crest of an emotional wave

As a latterday Sheriff of Not-tingham, Stuart Pearce, the England full-hack, must have suspected that Robin Hood and Maid Marion would throw in their lot with the enemy. Nottingham plays host to Croatla during Euro 96, but judging from the wealth of talent the visitors are putting out at Wembley tonight it is a moot point whether they warranted the support of the city's fictional duo. Not that they have not robbed from the rich. Arrigo Sacchi, Italy's coach, knows just what it feels like to be relieved of three points by the Croatians, as they were on home soil during the Euro-pean Championship qualifiers. "Frustrating," was how he put it the other day. "When they gel

who makes a much-anticipated

full debut, the answer will prob-

What does he hring to the

"Goals" was the reply. England

ably be to shoot.

they are the most unnerving opponents. If you lose the ball they never give it back to you." England, you have heen warned. Any suggestion that the Croatians are here just to massage England's ego as Bulgaria did in the opening 45 minutes last time out can be dismissed. "We are fielding the team that made Croatian football what it is today," declared the coach, Miroslav Blazevic, with a sense

of occasion.

Just to hear him reading out the starting line-up would have sent a shiver up Terry Venables' spine. Naturally, they deny that they have emerged as one of the tournament favourites and Slaven Bilic, the West Ham defender, duly towed the party line that it was a small, vulnerable squad. But when asked to put his finger on its strengths, he found himself spoilt for choice. "Suker is like a goal machine," he said. "Boksic doesn't

Clive White meets the talented team who face England

at Wembley tonight score many but he can murder defences. He's very quick and strong, he goes through you. Then there's Prosinecki, Boban, Stimac, Asanovic, Jerkan - yes, perhaps we're all stars." One small statistic probably says in all; Mario Stanic, of Bruges is Belgium's leading goalscorer, yet be cannot even get in the side. Much has been wrinen about

how the suffering of their people during the conflict in the old Yugoslavia hrought about an unbreakable bond in team spirit and what independence has done for them, but the closeness among the players goes back further than some people realise. Six in tonight's starting line-up once played for Hajduk Split, including four of the defenders. The fact that they are all now spread around Europe seems to matter not. "We know each other's moves," Bilic said. "I played with him when I was 11," he said nodding towards Boban. And then, clasping hands with Alen Boksic as the Lazio striker walked by he added: "And with

him when I was I2." Boban's smart three-piece suit amid all the tracksuits was indication that all was still not perfectly well with the Milan midfielder. He will start tonight's match but probably not finish it. Bohan has been suffering from mononucleosis – the kissing disease, a strain of glandular fever - for the past 10 months and has not played since facing Juventus in Febru- matches, but the final itself.

Regarded as a newspaper with the Post Office

ary. His fitness is now slowly re-turning, evidently along with his sense of humour. "I kiss a lot," he said, "but funnily enough my wife doesn't have the disease.

The partnership up front be-tween Boksic, whom according to Bilic is about to sign for Juventus or Torino, and Davor Suker, who joins Real Madrid next season, promises to be one of the most lethal in the championship. Suker scored 12 goals in the qualifiers, including both goals against Italy in Palermo, and it is his intention to finish top scorer for the finals too. A mature. charming man, he speaks fluent Spanish after four seasons with Seville and is learning English just for the Championship. He got a little carried away with his diplomacy, though, when he said: "I like Manchester United

- I'm an Andy Cole fan."

Since the Championship qualifiers began Croatia have lost just once in 18 matches. 1-0 away to the Ukraine on a sticky day in June last year. They also lost the services of Tomislav Ivic, one of the most experienced coaches in the world, after a disagreement with Blazevic, but quickly put both sethacks helind them. "It's true on our day we can beat any team in the world, hut we're not always the sum of the individual parts," Boban says.

"He's a charmer, a hig motivator," said Bilic of his captain, hut Bohan has learned to temper his enthusiasm since qualification from Group Four was achieved in November. He extended an invitation to the football-mad President Tudjman to watch Croatia in the final in England. Not the group



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